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IEA Outlook Report Views World Energy Demand

OW1204095394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0839 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Global demand for primary energy will grow at an average annual pace of 2.1 percent through 2010, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in an outlook report Tuesday [12 April].

By 2010, the world will be consuming 48 percent more energy than it did in 1991, said the 1994 edition of the IEA's world energy outlook. "The inexorable increase" in energy demand is ascribed to an expected rise of over 70 percent in global gross domestic product (GDP) during the period, IEA Executive Director Helga Steeg said in a news conference in Tokyo.

The annual report said energy consumption among the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will increase by 28 percent between now and 2010.

Oil demand in the OECD will rise to 45 million barrels per day, up 18 percent over 1991 consumption. The rise in oil demand, an average pace of 0.8 percent a year, occurs entirely in the transport sector, the report said.

With a gradual decline in OECD oil production expected to continue, the OECD's dependency on imported oil will increase to nearly 70 percent by 2010 from 58 percent in 1991, the report said.

In order for the OECD to secure the demand, production in the Middle East and Venezuela needs to double over the next 16 to 17 years, the report said.

World coal consumption will grow at 2.1 percent per annum. Such demand from countries other than the OECD will rise at 3.8 percent a year with China accounting for over half of the expected increase.

The forecasts are based on the assumption that oil import prices will average 17 dollars per barrel in 1994 and 1995 in the IEA countries and rise to 28 barrels by 2005, after which it remains flat.

The outlook is also conditional on a modest macroeconomic growth in the OECD in the early years of the forecast amid the continuing recession in Japan and Europe.

The outlook for the world energy demand indicates global carbon dioxide emissions will grow 50 percent by 2010, Steeg said.

Emissions in the OECD will continue on an upward pace while those in the rest of the world will more than double, she said. "This picture will be slowed but not fundamentally changed under low economic growth assumptions," Steeg said.

Forecasting region-by-region energy demand, the report said consumption in Japan and other OECD Pacific areas is expected to grow at 1.8 percent per annum over the forecast period, a slower growth than that over the last decade. "Energy-intensive industries will continue to relocate from Japan to the rapidly growing Asian countries," Steeg explained.

Japanese nuclear output capacity is expected to almost double over the forecast period, the report said.

France, Chile Propose Antarctic Visit Controls

OW1204090694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0745 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Kyoto, April 12 KYODO—France and Chile have jointly proposed tough regulations on tourists to Antarctica after reports of environmental damage caused by visitors to the frigid continent, sources at the Antarctica conference here said Tuesday [12 April].

Signatories of an international treaty on the Antarctic are meeting here at the Kyoto International Conference Hall until April 22 to discuss policies to protect the environment at the South Pole. The proposed regulations would hold the tourists, their travel agents, and their countries responsible for protecting the environment, the sources said.

Tourists, who have been growing in number in recent years, and their travel agents would be required to submit a detailed plan of their visit 15 months before departure and strictly observe the environmental protection agreement during their trip, the sources said.

Home countries of the tourists and agents would be asked to approve the visits to Antarctica and in the event of violations of the protection agreement would be denied approval for visits up to five years, the sources said.

The United States and Britain, on the other hand, plan to propose guidelines for the tourists and adventurers, and are opposed to the strictness of the joint proposal of France and Chile.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 tourists visit Antarctica each year, but there have been reports of the tourists trampling penguin nesting grounds, damaging local plant life and disrupting scientific experiments being conducted in the area.

Japan

Foreign Minister To Meet U.S.' Kantor 15 Apr

OW1204101994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0955 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata will meet U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor on Friday in Marrakech, Morocco, where they are attending a ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), government sources said Tuesday. Hata and Kantor will meet for about two hours over breakfast to seek a breakthrough in resuming the failed trade "framework" talks and also discuss multilateral issues, the sources said.

Relations between Tokyo and Washington have soured over trade following the collapse of the trade negotiations in February when Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton met.

Hata's trip to Marrakech will formally be decided in a buck-slip cabinet meeting Wednesday morning, they said.

The foreign minister is to leave Japan on Wednesday noon for Morocco and return to Japan on Sunday, according to the sources. Hata was originally scheduled to leave Tuesday but was delayed due to the political turmoil following Hosokawa's sudden announcement last Friday that he will resign .

Hata, also deputy prime minister, is tipped as a strong candidate as the successor to Hosokawa.

On Monday, the Japanese Government sent Nobuo Matsunaga, the government representative for external economic affairs, to Marrakech in case Hata cannot attend the four-day GATT session that wraps up Friday.

Also in Marrakech, Hata will meet Australian Trade Minister Bob Mcmullan and Leon Brittan, the European Union's trade commissioner, separately Thursday, the sources said.

Hata may also meet U.S. Vice President Al Gore if possible, the sources said.

Ambassador Assures Washington Reform To Continue

OW1104234394 Tokyo KYODO in English 2325 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Washington, April 11 KYODO—Japan's Ambassador to the United States Takakazu Kuriyama assured Washington Monday that the new government in Tokyo will press on with political and economic reform initiated by outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. Japanese diplomatic sources said Kuriyama gave his assurance in a meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor. Kuriyama originally asked for the meeting to set the groundwork for crucial trade talks that had been scheduled for Friday in Morocco between Kantor and Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata.

The surprise announcement last Friday that Hosokawa was stepping down from office is likely to scuttle Hata's planned trip to Morocco, however, as well as prospects for a quick resumption of stalled trade talks between Tokyo and Washington.

Japanese diplomatic sources said Kantor and Kuriyama agreed that the two countries should act prudently on the "framework" trade talks. "Both sides realized that the framework should not be allowed to fail once again," a Japanese source said.

Tokyo has urged Washington to resume the talks, which broke down at a summit meeting between President Bill Clinton and Hosokawa on Feb. 11.

The Clinton administration made it clear after Hosokawa's resignation announcement last Friday that Washington wants to settle trade disputes with Japan under the terms of the basic framework trade accord reached with Tokyo last summer.

ROK Foreign Minister 'Secretly' Meets Blix

OW1204130594 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1026 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "News 7" program]

[Text] ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and Director General Hans Blix of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] secretly met today in a hotel near Narita Airport in Tokyo, and discussed the issue of the DPRK's, or North Korea's, nuclear facilities.

Foreign Minister Han landed at Narita Airport today, one day earlier than the scheduled stopover for his week-long visit to Russia, to meet Director General Blix, who had just arrived in Tokyo to attend an international conference.

The meeting was not opened to the press in view of North Korea's intensified criticism of the IAEA policies. The topics for discussion at the meeting are unknown, but it is believed that the two leaders discussed such issues as results of the IAEA inspections in North Korea last month and possibilities of North Korea's acceptance of the IAEA inspections in the future.

[Begin Blix recording] We talked about the need for the IAEA's early completion of inspections in the regions resisting them. [end recording]

Concerning the question of North Korea's nuclear development program, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry is scheduled to visit Japan and the ROK next week.

Nations concerned including Japan, have begun to move actively in preparation for the UN Security Council session in early May.

ROK Embassy Comments on Meeting

OW1204131394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1301 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and Hans Blix, chief of the U.N.'s nuclear monitoring agency, agreed Tuesday [12 April] that North Korea must permit the completion of inspections initiated last month on its suspect nuclear program. Han, on a weeklong diplomatic mission to Russia, Britain, and Belgium, arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday and met with Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), who is here for a forum starting Wednesday in Hiroshima on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Blix and Han, during their hour-long meeting, studied Pyongyang's response to the U.N. Security Council's March 31 presidential statement urging North Korea to comply with the nuclear safeguards accord and permit the conclusion of the checks, the South Korean Embassy in Japan said.

The IAEA has said two weeks of inspections in March were insufficient to decide whether Pyongyang has diverted nuclear materials for weapons purposes as alleged by the United States and other Western nations.

North Korea says it has fully complied with inspection criteria previously agreed upon and maintains its nuclear program serves strictly civilian purposes.

The nuclear row will top Han's agenda in Moscow, where he will meet Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and other government leaders from Wednesday through Friday.

"I expect Moscow to bring up its earlier proposal for an eight-way conference on the North Korean nuclear issue and I will explain Seoul's position," YONHAP NEWS AGENCY quoted Han as saying before departure. Moscow has suggested that both Koreas, China, the U.S., Russia, Japan, the United Nations and the IAEA try to resolve the nuclear controversy through a special conference.

According to YONHAP, Han said Seoul welcomes the Russian proposal but prefers that the U.N. handle the North Korean issue for the time being.

Han is scheduled to meet British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in London on Saturday and will return to Seoul next Monday after attending a two-day conference of South Korean mission chiefs in Brussels.

Takemura Denies DPRK Political Connection

OW1204092194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0907 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Washington appears concerned that North Korea's connection with Japanese ruling quarters may lead to a softening of Tokyo's attitude toward Pyongyang, a Tokyo newspaper reported Tuesday.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's announcement of resignation Friday has raised concerns that some figures in the coalition may adopt a more conciliatory position toward Pyongyang, the SANKEI SHIMBUN reported from Washington in its evening edition. The SANKEI dispatch named Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura and Shinseito's [Japan Renewal Party] senior member Hajime Ishii as having close links with North Korea.

Hosokawa has so far expressed support for Washington's plans to seek economic sanctions against North Korea if Pyongyang continues to refuse thorough safeguard inspections of its nuclear program.

Takemura, speaking at Tuesday's evening news conference, dismissed the concern as a "laughing matter."

Government officials said they know that a number of politicians within the Japanese ruling coalition would likely support a political connection with North Korea, the SANKEI report said.

The officials allowed that Takemura's and Ishii's connection with North Korea may be entirely legitimate, but added that they hope Tokyo will not dilute its attitude toward the North Korean nuclear problem, the report said. Takemura and Ishii appear to have been singled out by Washington because of their involvement in a trip to North Korea in September 1990 led by then-Liberal Democratic Party power broker Shin Kanemaru.

"It is a laughing matter," Takemura told reporters in Tokyo on Tuesday, commenting on his reported political links with Pyongyang. Takemura and Ishii are also members of the Japan-North Korea Parliamentarians League, but Takemura denied that this was any indication that he had a political connection with Pyongyang.

Washington has spearheaded an international campaign since last March to persuade Pyongyang to accept full inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to ensure that its nuclear program is not being used to manufacture an atomic weapons arsenal. Pyongyang has denied allegations it is seeking to build a bomb, but its refusal to permit unfettered IAEA inspections has fueled suspicions that it may be diverting radioactive materials from its power plants to military purposes.

Two rounds of high-level talks between Washington and Pyongyang last summer yielded an agreement for inspections that were held last month.

The IAEA, however, was prevented from completing the inspections and the U.N. Security Council issued a presidential statement March 31 urging Pyongyang to permit completion of the checks.

Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev: No Policy Change

OW0904071694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0657 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said Saturday [9 April] that Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's resignation will not alter Japanese policy or affect agreements signed between the two countries. Nazarbayev told reporters at a Tokyo hotel that bilateral agreements will remain valid and projects planned between Japanese corporations and his country will remain unchanged.

Nazarbayev said that Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's announcement Friday that he will resign was unexpected but did not come as a surprise. He said he received no prior indication that Hosokawa would announce his resignation when he met the prime minister on Thursday.

But Nazarbayev said he is aware that "when a large number of parties make up a coalition, the problems usually become complex.

"From an international perspective, it (Hosokawa's resignation) is nothing to be surprised about," he said.

Nazarbayev arrived in Japan on Wednesday for a four-day visit. In addition to his talks with Hosokawa, Nazarbayev met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Friday.

Ends Four-Day Visit, Departs

OW0904085994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0839 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—Kazakhastan President Nursultan Nazarbayev left Tokyo Saturday [9 April], concluding a four-day visit that resulted in a pledge by Japan to offer financial aid for dismantling the nation's nuclear arsenal and promoting economic reform.

Before departing from Tokyo's Haneda Airport, Nazarbayev told reporters that the central Asian country will proceed with ongoing economic reform although he acknowledged it is impossible to achieve the reform without "pain." He also said that raising productivity through joint ventures with advanced countries, such as Japan, that have high technologies would contribute to preventing falling living standards of the people in the former Soviet republic.

In a joint statement signed by Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa Friday, Japan pledged to allocate 1,170 million yen to Kazakhstan to help dismantle its nuclear arsenal inherited from the former Soviet Union.

Tokyo will also provide a loan totaling 12,982 million yen for improving railway infrastructure and tackling air pollution from thermal power stations.

The Export-Import Bank of Japan will extend an untied loan valued at 220 million dollars to support its transition to a market economy.

Controversy Over Successor to Hosokawa Continues

Watanabe on 'Resolve' To Run

OW1204090994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0855 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe implied Tuesday [12 April] that he might leave the main opposition party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), to run for a prime ministerial election in the Diet, an LDP legislator said.

Watanabe, head of one of the LDP's five major factions, showed the resolve in a meeting with a group of junior LDP Diet members, called the "Liberals," which is led by Seiichi Ota. In the meeting, Ota's group urged Watanabe to run in the prime ministerial election in both houses of the Diet.

Ota quoted Watanabe as saying, "(I) have an indomitable resolve." "(I) would like to form a new party to meet the request."

Ouchi: Watanabe 'Unlikely' Choice

OW1204074094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0646 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—The leader of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), a group in the ruling coalition, said Tuesday [12 April] that former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is unlikely to be chosen as a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi said, "Mr. Watanabe is outside the framework of the coalition. I have heard there is considerable criticism and rejection from opposition and ruling parties (against Watanabe's premiership). It's not so easy."

"Even if Mr. Watanabe would join the current ruling parties, how many people can he bring (from the LDP)? I doubt the number reaches as high as rumored. In that case, it would be quite difficult for the ruling parties to secure the majority (in the 511-seat House of Representatives)," said Ouchi, the health and welfare minister.

A senior official of the LDP's Watanabe faction said Monday that Watanabe plans to form a new parliamentary group in the lower house in a bid to form a coalition government with three ruling parties—Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], Komeito and the Japan New Party (JNP).

As the combined parliamentary strength of Watanabe's 46-member faction, Shinseito, Komeito and the JNP stands at 161, Watanabe will need to win support from more than 95 LDP legislators who belong to other LDP factions in order to hold the majority seats.

Since last February, Watanabe has repeatedly held meetings with Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, who is regarded as the chief coalition strategist.

Shinseito and Komeito—key forces within the ruling coalition—are widely deemed as willing to name Watanabe the next leader of a new coalition government in an attempt to oust the Social Democratic Party and new party Sakigake [Harbinger] from the coalition.

Kono Vows To Run in Election

OW1204051994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0512 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Opposition leader Yohei Kono vowed Tuesday [12 April] to run in a prime ministerial election in the Diet that will pick a successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who announced his resignation last Friday, party officials said. Kono, president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), made the comment during a meeting of senior executive officials of the party, which was ousted from power last August following 38 years of uninterrupted rule.

Kono was quoted as saying, "(I) will fulfill duties as party president and run in the prime ministerial election."

"I think I should perform to the last (my) duties as head of a party with its membership totaling 220 members (in the House of Representatives)," he said.

"The party must act in unison," said Kono, in an apparent reference aimed at thwarting moves among the LDP to put up former Prime Minister Michio Watanabe as a prime ministerial candidate. "There are emerging political circumstances for the LDP to take the position of assuming responsibility," Kono said.

Kono accused the ruling coalition of failing to show a political perspective, spending time playing power games and lacking the qualifications to hold power.

LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori told the same session that the party may hammer out a policy accord with other parties before the Diet's prime ministerial election.

Watanabe's key ally present at the party meeting, Taku Yamasaki, opposed Kono's likely election bid, saying the party president need not be its candidate automatically.

It is not known when the prime ministerial election in both houses of the Diet will be called.

The seven-party coalition, which controls a majority in the two houses, is on the verge of a breakup because of sharp differences between two groups in the eight-month-old alliance.

The LDP, whose membership in the lower house stands at 219, is the largest single party in the Diet. The coalition controls 260 members in the powerful 511-seat lower chamber.

Kono Intends 'Fair Fight'

OW1204030794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0252 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Opposition leader Yohei Kono indicated Tuesday that he intends to put himself forward as a candidate when the Diet chooses the next prime minister. He told a meeting of Liberal Democratic Party executives that LDP members should unite in the election, party officials said.

But he said he intends to have a "fair fight" with the ruling coalition, which has yet to choose its candidate to succeed Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who announced his intention to step down last Friday.

Yoshiro Mori, secretary general of the LDP, supported Kono, saying it is natural for a party leader to run for the premiership, the officials said.

Kono rapped moves within the LDP to put forward former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe for the premiership, insisting that he as party president should be the candidate.

Backers of Watanabe argued that the party president need not be the automatic candidate, and Taku Yamasaki, deputy general secretary of the party, voiced opposition to Kono's comments. Yamasaki belongs to an LDP faction headed by Watanabe.

Coalition Moves To Avert Split

OW1204132894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—The governing coalition on Tuesday [12 April] took a step toward averting a split over the picking of a successor to departing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, top coalition officials said.

"I'm pretty sure we can solve our problems to maintain and develop our coalition government," Social Democratic Party (SDP) Secretary General Wataru Kubo told a news conference.

Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, a top coalition strategist, also told reporters, "everything is going in the right direction," in a reference to the bickering among coalition partners over procedures to choose a replacement for Hosokawa.

At a session of their caucus on Tuesday evening, coalition executives concurred on the need to work out differences between them and coalition party leaders on the succession procedures, Kubo said. The top coalition officials will meet again on Wednesday morning to discuss the matter further, he said, adding he believes they can get down to the nitty-gritty of picking a candidate for the premiership from Wednesday.

While new party Sakigake (Harbinger), the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and the SDP favor the selection of a new premier at a forum of coalition chiefs, Shinseito, Komeito and Hosokawa's Japan New Party (JNP) contend the secretary general-level caucus should first discuss the matter.

Hosokawa, who remains in office until his successor is picked, had asked the coalition executives' forum to take charge of the selection business.

Earlier Tuesday, leaders of four coalition components met for a second time since Monday and shared the view that coalition chiefs should first discuss how to choose a candidate for the next premiership.

The four were Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura of Sakigake, Health and Welfare Minister Keigo Ouchi of the DSP, SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama and Eiichi Nakamura of the Democratic Reform Party, a small parliamentary group in the House of Councillors.

Murayama twice proposed holding a meeting of coalition chiefs, once on Monday and again on Tuesday, to break the gridlock over the choice of a new premier, which poses a threat to the unity within the eight-month-old coalition. But leaders of four coalition partners—Shinseito, Komeito, the JNP and the United Social Democratic Party—rejected the bid and boycotted the two sessions.

The row over the procedures to find Hosokawa's replacement clearly revealed the deep gulf between the moderate-to-leftist Sakigake-DSP-SDP bloc and the more conservative Shinseito-Komeito camp over political philosophies and some fundamental national policies.

The known personal rivalry between Shinseito's Ozawa and Sakigake chief Takemura has also fueled the coalition's polarization into two blocs.

While hoping to install Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who heads Shinseito, as the new premier, the latter alliance has also been considering fielding former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as a candidate to succeed Hosokawa.

Watanabe, whose close personal relationship with Ozawa is no secret, has signaled his readiness to run for the highest government office.

The Shinseito-Komeito bloc would give the boot to the SDP, the largest coalition contingent whose basic policies are still far apart from those of other coalition partners, should Watanabe decide to quit the LDP with a large number of his followers and join a part of the coalition, political sources said.

The ex-foreign minister said Tuesday he wishes to run for the premiership, "with an irreversible determination," even by launching a new party, said Seiichi Ota, a close associate of Watanabe.

While Watanabe's supporters are waging a campaign to have their boss selected as the LDP's candidate for the premiership, LDP President Yohei Kono himself vowed Tuesday to run in the parliamentary election to pick Hosokawa's successor.

The two men will meet Wednesday to exchange views on the selection of a replacement for Hosokawa, party officials said.

Sakigake, for its part, also showed interest in forming a tie-up with pro-reformers within the LDP, which was ousted from power last August for the first time in 38 years. Sakigake is an LDP breakaway party.

As the possibility increased of neither of the two plans bearing fruit, however, the squabbling coalition parties began moving to mend fences and maintain the current framework of their alliance.

"We faced a problem concerning the basis of the coalition this time," Kubo said. "I believe the coalition will grow solidified by overcoming problems like this."

Coalition Split Deepens on Issue

OW1204064394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0631 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—The split in the governing coalition deepened Tuesday over how to pick a successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa who announced his resignation last Friday, coalition sources said.

Leaders of three out of the seven parties in the coalition met again in the Diet, following the one on Monday. They were the heads of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the new party Sakigake and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP). The head of a pro-SDP group in the House of Councillors, the Democratic Reform Party (DRP), joined the session.

SDP Chairman Tomiich Murayama, Sakigake leader Masayoshi Takemura and DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi, DRP leader Eiichi Nakamura agreed in the meeting that they will never give the mandate on the choice of Hosokawa's successor to a lower-level forum made up of secretaries general, coalition officials said.

Heads of four other parties—Shinseito, Komeito, the Japan New Party (JNP), and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP)—again boycotted the top leaders' session proposed by the SDP's Murayama, arguing that the matter should first be discussed at the secretary general-level forum. They are Tsutomu Hata of Shinseito, Koshiro Ishida of Komeito, Hosokawa of the JNP, and Satsuki Eda of the USDP.

The SDP, Sakigake and DSP are wary that Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa and Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa may take the leading role in the secretary general-level discussions over the choice of the successor.

After the three party leaders gave their blessings to Murayama's proposal to reserve the mandate to pick the new premier for themselves, the SDP-led camp conveyed its stand to the Shinseito-led forum, adding fuel to the intra-coalition hostilities.

Murayama, Takemura, Ouchi and Nakamura also agreed to band again whenever necessary, while monitoring how the Shinseito-led caucus would respond to their claim for the mandate, coalition officials said.

The Shinseito-led caucus has been insisting upon its authority to pick the coalition's next prime ministerial candidate on the strength of a statement by Hosokawa that he wants the caucus to take charge of decision-making on the "remaining" matters, they said.

However, Murayama rejected their interpretation, saying, "the premier's remark merely implied that he wants the caucus to take care of the remaining small businesses (until a next premier is picked)."

"In selecting the prime minister of a country, the meeting of the deputy chiefs of the parties should not be given the mandate to pick the premier," Murayama told the other three leaders from Sakigake, the DSP and the DRP.

Takemura told the top leaders meeting, "although I agree to make efforts to maintain the current combination, I want them (the Shiseito-led caucus) to feel repentant and amend the attitudes they have taken over the past eight months."

A Komeito official said of the rising intra-coalition standoff, "now it is impossible to mend fences."

"We cannot help altering a combination of political parties that comprise the ruling coalition government," he said.

Shinseito head Hata, who is the foreign minister, denied reports that the coalition is on the brink of collapse.

Hata told a news conference Tuesday, "it's true that various emotions are entangled." "But if we go back to the starting point of why we established the coalition, I think we can restore it."

JNP leader Hosokawa indicated there will be a recombination of parties in the eight-month-old ruling coalition, telling some party legislators "the coalition needs to accept a new group."

A separate standoff is beginning to undercut the solidarity of the No. 1 opposition party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), party sources said.

While the backers of former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe are waging a campaign to have him selected as the LDP's candidate for premiership, LDP President Yohei Kono announced his intention to run for premiership himself.

The LDP, the single largest party in the House of Representatives with a 219-legislator parliamentary strength, now stands a chance of sweeping back to power on the strength of the growing intra-coalition animosity, political sources said.

The majority in the 511-member lower chamber is 256. Watanabe backers said they have solicited the support from more than 40 LDP legislators by Tuesday.

If Watanabe wants to sweep to power as the head of a new coalition government, he needs to muster support of about 100 LDP legislators, on top of the allegiance of the combined 156-member strength of his own LDP faction, Shinseito, Komeito and the JNP, which are deemed to be ready to lend their support to Watanabe, the sources said.

Hata: Coalition Not Collapsing

OW1204025994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0247 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata denied suggestions Tuesday that the ruling coalition is on the brink of collapse over choosing a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Hata, who is also a leader of Shinseito, one of the ruling parties, told a press conference the coalition has not broken up because meetings of the senior executives of the parties are still being held. "It's true that various emotions are entangled," Hata said. "But if we go back to the starting point of why we established the coalition, I think we can restore it."

He added that the coalition has solved various difficult problems since it came to power eight months ago.

The seven-party coalition is at odds over at what level to decide on a candidate to replace Hosokawa. The Social Democratic Party (SDP) called for a meeting of all the coalition party heads, but Shinseito, Komeito and the Japan New Party rejected the call.

Hata said Shinseito has already voiced its opinion in the executives' meeting that a meeting of the top leaders should be left to the last in deciding the succession issue. He suggested a meeting of executives and top leaders of the coalition together.

Mori Rejects Watanabe LDP Vice President Idea

OW0804035794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0337 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 8 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Yoshiro Mori said Friday [8 April] the party has no plan to appoint former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe as its vice president.

Mori told a press conference that he has no intention of asking Watanabe to become LDP vice president to meet calls for such a move within the party to strengthen the party leadership. "I don't think the leadership is so weak as to need reinforcement," Mori said, rejecting a charge from an intraparty group that the leadership is weak in fighting the coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Mori criticized moves by some party members to have Watanabe promoted to the vice presidency, saying it could lead to an intraparty struggle.

LDP Reform-Minded Members Urged To Quit Party

OW1204084894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0820 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Two Diet members of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) are urging reform-minded members in the main opposition party to quit and form a new party, the ASAHI SHIMBUN reported Tuesday. The mass-circulation daily named the two as Michihiko Kano and Masayasu Kitagawa, both of whom have pushed for political and electoral reforms.

Kano, Kitagawa and their supporters are expected to leave the LDP in a day or two, at the earliest, the ASAHI said in its evening edition.

Kano has served as director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, while Kitagawa was once parliamentary vice minister of education. The two men are lobbying some 40 LDP legislators to join a new party they want to set up, and hope to get at least 20 members for it, the newspaper said without attribution.

Kitagawa is known for his close ties with new party Sakigake leader Masayoshi Takemura, who is the chief cabinet secretary. The pair plan to keep their distance from both the LDP and the ruling coalition, it said.

Hosokawa Urges Coalition To Preserve Unity

OW1204103694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Tuesday urged coalition partners to halt an intracoalition standoff over key policies and ideologies to prevent the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from sweeping back to power.

"It is critical to preserve the current overall combination of coalition partners by reviving the memory of the initial objective of the coalition," Hosokawa told Muneaki Samejima, the deputy secretary general of his Japan New Party. However, Hosokawa, who made a surprise resignation announcement on Friday over his personal financial deals, hinted it is also crucial to win over new defectors from the No. 1 opposition LDP saying, "it is important to have more new forces defect to our side."

Hosokawa's coalition stripped the LDP of its 38-year lock on power last August after dozens of LDP rebels splintered from the scandal-tainted party and joined the anti-LDP alliance.

In the campaign period that led up to the 1993 general election that brought him to power, Hosokawa made it clear that his chief aim was to oust the LDP, thereby revamping the political structure in place since 1955.

In a lecture meeting Tuesday afternoon in a Tokyo hotel, Hosokawa said he does not want to see Japan's power structure transformed back into the "1955 structure," where the LDP used to monopolize power on the basis of its pro-business, pro-U.S. economic and security policies.

He said, "although some politicians have proposed making Japan a 'normal country' or a 'country that shines,' or proposed getting social democrats and liberals together, these ideas are a mere ideological carryover from the now-defunct 1955 structure in which political debate was dominated by constitutional and security issues."

He was apparently referring to phrases coined by Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa who warned that the international community would not regard Japan as a "normal country" unless it assumed greater responsibility in the field of U.N. peacekeeping operations.

His reference to the phrase "a country that shines" revolved around Sakigake [Harbinger] leader Takemura's slogan that Japan would still receive respect from the international community even if it avoided taking a greater part in U.N. peacekeeping missions.

"Now that moves toward a reconfiguration of the political community have gained momentum since my announcement of the intention to step down, (the coalition) should unify themselves into a new party with their emphasis placed on a transformation of the nation's economic structure," he said.

However, Hosokawa sided with the position of Ozawa in dealing with Japan's defense policy in the face of North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development program. "We have to conduct domestic preparations so that we can respond appropriately to moves to be taken by the U.N. Security Council and relevant countries," he said.

He called for speeding up the process of toughening the relevant laws in advance in preparation for possible U.N. adoption of a resolution slapping economic sanctions on North Korea.

As for the burgeoning intracoalition hostilities over policies and ideologies, Hosokawa cautioned that the coalition might not be able to survive the current political turbulence which he compared to a storm at sea.

"Now that we are running a revolutionary government, we will not be able to survive the current storm unless we suspend the 'theological dispute,' saying I like this man or dislike that person and taking issue with others' political tendencies or tactics," he said.

Hints at Parties 'Recombination'

OW1204061294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0604 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Prime Minister and Japan New Party (JNP) leader Morihiro Hosokawa indicated Tuesday there will be a recombination of parties in the eight-month-old ruling coalition, party officials said. Hosokawa, in a meeting with several JNP legislators, was quoted as saying, "the coalition needs to accept a new group."

The seven party coalition has shown signs of a split over the choice of a successor to Hosokawa who announced the resignation last Friday.

Three of the coalition parties—Shinseito, Komeito and the JNP—have strengthened solidarity, while the Social Democratic Party, new party Sakigake and the Democratic Socialist Party are forming a bloc against them.

There have [been] emerging signs of a split also in the main opposition party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe of the LDP has indicated willingness to join hands with the Shinseito-led group to run for the premiership.

New Document: Hosokawa Refunded Some of Loan

OW0904024694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0233 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has refunded some of a loan extended by Sagawa Kyubin, a scandal-tainted trucking company, according to a newly-found document obtained by KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

Hosokawa, who on Friday [8 April] abruptly announced his intention to resign, has come under attack over a 100 million yen loan he took from Sagawa Kyubin, as well as another financial deal related to the purchase of shares in Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT). Although Hosokawa has told the Diet he paid back the 100 million yen to Sagawa Kyubin, the opposition has alleged that he failed to do so, making the loan a de facto secret donation.

The newly found document is apparently a photocopy of part of Sagawa Kyubin's accounting data. It seemed to be copied from printed computer data of the company's accounts between 1986 and 1988. It says the data are the item of loans extended by Sagawa Kyubin from the firm's balance sheet book.

According to the data, Hosokawa refunded 10 million yen respectively on May 28, 1986, February 10, 1987 and February 17, 1988.

The dates and the amounts of money are the same as previous data submitted last December by Sagawa Kyubin to the Diet. However, the new document suggests the money was paid back through a bank, contrary to Hosokawa's explanation to the Diet that he had his secretary carry cash to refund Sagawa Kyubin.

Minao Hattori of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party said the loan which Hosokawa had his secretary refund may be a different loan from that stated in the new document.

The document was kept by a former Sagawa Kyubin employee who has entrusted it to an acquaintance. A former Sagawa Kyubin executive said the document apparently is of Sagawa Kyubin.

Utility Fee Increase 'Unlikely' To Hurt Economy

OW0804025394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0222 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 8 KYODO—Planned hikes in utility and other public service charges are unlikely to put a damper on the economy, Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Friday [8 April].

The government has allowed in its economic forecast for a 1.5 percent rise in domestic prices stemming from the hikes provided for in the fiscal 1994 budget, Fujii told a regular news conference after a morning cabinet meeting.

The cabinet meeting reconfirmed the need to have related public utilities firms streamline their operations to avoid unnecessary rate hikes but did not decide to stop or squeeze the planned hikes.

Considering rate hikes proposed aside from the budget, Fujii said related ministries and agencies will decide on these based on the policy reconfirmed at the cabinet meeting. "There won't be much," he said.

Fujii Says Economy in 'Delicate Stage'

OW1204013394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0122 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—The latest statistics have yet not proved that the economy has hit bottom and prolonged political unrest may put a damper on public sentiment, Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Tuesday [12 April]. "The economy is in a delicate stage" with both good and bad indicators, Fujii repeated at a news conference after a morning cabinet meeting.

Fujii was referring to a monthly economic report endorsed at the cabinet meeting. The report, compiled by the Economic Planning Agency, said the economy remains sluggish but included a phrase that some bright spots have emerged.

Fujii's cautious stance on the economy contrasts with that of Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno and many private economists, who have recently suggested that the economy is showing signs of bottoming out.

The finance minister said the political uncertainty "is certainty not favorable" for corporate and consumer sentiment. He called for a settlement as soon as possible of the issue of choosing a successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who announced his intention to resign last Friday.

Concerning tax reform, Fujii said, "the direction and track indicated by the Hosokawa cabinet will be inherited by any new cabinet."

"Tax reform should become the mainstay of any new cabinet," he said. The government has pledged to conduct a full tax reform, including permanent income tax cuts, by the end of the year, and promised in its March market-opening package to present details of the tax reform plan in June.

Legislators of both the ruling parties and the opposition Liberal Democratic Party attached a provision to include permanent tax cuts in the tax reform when they enacted a single-year tax cut bill in March.

Kubota: Economy To Improve Barring 'Stumble'

OW1204024494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0235 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Barring a "big stumble," Japan's struggling economy is set to improve as bright signs emerge, economic planning chief Manae Kubota said Tuesday [12 April].

Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), also told a regular news conference that Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno informed a morning meeting of economic ministers the economy is in a "delicate" phase, with recovery prospects still vulnerable. Noting that her agency's new monthly report cited some areas of "brightness" in the still "broadly sluggish" economy, Kubota cited such factors as improving corporate sentiment and consumption, with strong housing investment and higher purchases of durable goods and small cars. "If there is not a big stumble, the economy is headed in a good direction," she said. She cited such possible pitfalls as slack public works implementation due to the current political turmoil.

She quoted Mieno, who has also recently spoken of increasing bright signs in the economy, as citing such causes of uncertainty as domestic long- and short-term money market rates, as well as big changes in the U.S. stock and bond markets. Mieno said Japan's money supply growth remains weak as slack corporate demand for funding discourages banks from lending, according to Kubota.

She said the central bank chief also noted recent movements in various market rates, saying that the yield on 10-year government bonds briefly rose above 4.2 percent on worries over the high yen and a drop in stock prices. But he noted the unsecured overnight call-money rate remains "extremely low," she said. He cited recent moves by the Japanese currency up to 102 to the dollar, back to around 105 and again to the 103 level, but the EPA chief said Mieno offered no comment on the moves.

Reflecting these uncertainties, long-term market rates have been showing "unstable" movements, trying to settle at levels that reflect economic conditions, Kubota quoted Mieno as saying. For her own economic outlook, Kubota cited an improving global trend, with U.S. and European economies brightening this year and most of Asia remaining strong. She also said that if this year's Japanese tax cuts are implemented as smoothly as planned, they could give an extra boost to an economy struggling to rebound. But she expressed concern about continued worsening trends in employment, citing a record high 3.18 percent unemployment rate for women in Japan.

Farm Ministry Stresses Domestic Rice Supplies

OW1204011094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0048 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Japan should in principle try to maintain self-sufficiency in rice, despite its decision to end the decades-old ban on rice imports, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said in an annual report Tuesday [12 April].

To that end, the fiscal 1993 white paper on agriculture says "a new control system" should be developed to ensure stability in domestic rice production and balanced supply and demand. The report does not mention any specifics of how such a new system should operate, although a ministry official said it is the first time for the ministry to use the phrase "new control system" in reference to rice in its official reports.

"This reflects the view that it's no good to just stick to the status quo," said Teruo Miyake, research division chief of the minister's secretariat. Miyake made the comment when reporters asked for comments on the existing rigid foodstuff control system.

Under the Food Control Law, the government regulates production and distribution of rice and bans commercial trade in rice. The law was also the legal backbone of

Japan's ban on rice imports. Many consumer groups and farmers have criticized the law and its underlying system as outdated, since it was passed in 1951 when Japanese rice was in short supply. Under the law, the government used to buy much of the rice crop for resale to consumers at lower prices, but now buys less than a fifth and oversees the independent distribution of an additional 40 percent. The remaining 40 percent is counted as being consumed by the farmers and their extended families, but some is distributed on the black market outside of government channels.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa announced last December the partial lifting of the rice import ban as a concession to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of global trade talks. But the food control law itself has been untouchable to date. Japan has also pledged to eliminate the remaining restrictions on imports of 12 agricultural products, including dairy products and corn starch, and to reduce tariffs on agricultural products. The report underlines the need for measures to minimize the impact on domestic farmers of the market-opening steps while promoting larger-scale farms to compete with imports. It also proposes the use of new technology and innovation to raise productivity under growing international competition.

Regarding the import of beef, which was liberalized in 1991 under agreements with the United States and Australia, the report points to significant increases in both imports and consumption over the past few years. Per capita beef consumption for fiscal 1992 climbed 52 percent from fiscal 1985, but increased imports reduced self-sufficiency in beef from 72 percent to 49 percent, the report says. It also notes that the sharp increase in beef imports has had a detrimental effect on domestic beef production, resulting in declining prices for wholesale beef and calves. The report urges promotion of large-scale beef production, selective breeding, and streamlining of production and distribution to slash production costs.

The report also touched on other topics:

—The cool, wet summer last year caused record damage of 1.3 trillion yen to agricultural production, resulting in the worst rice harvest in the postwar period and a record 956 billion yen in damage to rice crops alone.

—Food consumption by nonfarming households inched up 0.1 percent in real terms in fiscal 1992.

—Agricultural production rose 4.1 percent in fiscal 1992 after a poor harvest in 1991, but remained below average as the agricultural production index stood at 99.4 against the base rate of 100 for fiscal 1990.

—The agricultural work force fell 6.1 percent in fiscal 1992, the largest drop in 12 years.

—The 1992 food self-sufficiency rate was unchanged at 46 percent on a caloric basis. The rate for grain was also unchanged at 29 percent.

—Rice in Japan is about eight times more expensive than U.S. rice at the average exchange rate for 1993. Japanese rice was priced about four times higher than U.S. rice in the early 1980s.

Government Approves Product Liability Bill

OW1204051394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0504 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—The government Tuesday [12 April] endorsed a bill to provide consumers with greater protection against accidents and injuries caused by defective products. The product liability bill would require consumers seeking compensation to simply prove that a product was faulty, instead of having to prove negligence by the maker which is necessary at present.

But the bill failed to include a provision holding makers liable for damage or injury through assumption of a link between the damage or injury and a product defect. The bill also limits the duration of liability by corporations to 10 years after products are put on the market, differing from the 20 years stipulated under the civil code.

Speaking before a regular news conference Tuesday, Economic Planning Agency Director General Manae Kubota said the bill marks "a big turning point" for Japanese consumers.

Consumer protection in this country has improved to levels of the European Union, she said, terming the bill "the biggest reform effort for upgrading people's livelihood under the current cabinet." The bill is basically in line with recommendations made by the social policy council, an advisory body to the prime minister, in December last year.

The measure will be introduced in the parliament later Tuesday and could be implemented by the middle of 1995. It took almost 20 years for the bill to be finalized since the council first began debate on better consumer protection from defective products in 1975.

Under the bill, a product is regarded as defective if it lacks the safety that a user is entitled to expect.

Judgment on the safety will be made according to three criteria—the nature and normally expected functions of the product, the timing of the product's shipment and whether or not it was in normal use. This is down from nine criteria recommended by the council.

The scope of products subject to the proposed law is defined as manufactured or processed products.

As a result, blood products, some of which were infected with the virus that causes AIDS, will be covered by the law. The council originally proposed that blood products be excluded.

The bill says those held liable for damage or injury are not only makers and importers but companies indirectly engaged in manufacturing, such as those indicated in a label of the product. But makers will be cleared of responsibility if they can show that defects could not have been foreseen even with up-to-date technologies available at the time of the product's distribution.

This provision is intended to avoid discouraging manufacturers from pursuing technological innovation, which would eventually work to the disadvantage of consumers, an EPA official said.

International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai described the bill as "well balanced" in light of the overall framework of Japan's civil code and the current global trend toward better protection of consumers.

The Trade Ministry will make efforts to establish legal and other frameworks to upgrade products' safety, Kumagai told a regular press conference.

North Korea

Remarks by Christopher, Perry Criticized

SK1204043294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 12 Apr 94

["U.S. War Frenzy Undisguised"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—U.S. Secretary of State Christopher reportedly let out a war-reeking blast threatening the DPRK over the fictitious "nuclear issue".

In an interview with NBC April 10, Christopher, setting a deadline for the DPRK, told that "the diplomatic pressure on North Korea will give way to a more severe approach, with even a preemptive military strike not ruled out", unless the DPRK positively reacts to their one-sided and unjustifiable demand until that time.

U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, too, in an interview with NBC April 3 openly blared that "a preemptive military strike at North Korea will not be ruled out" and they were ready to risk a war.

Such war blasts ringing out continuously from among the U.S. high-ranking officials clearly show that the very one who seeks to provoke a war on the Korean peninsula is none other than the United States.

Deployment of U.S. Apache Helicopters Reported

SK1204104994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 12 Apr 94

["Calculated Dangerous Military Moves"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—The Japanese ASAHI SHIMBUN reported that some latest attack helicopters Apache of the United States were deployed in a South Korean base on April 10 for a "reinforcement of the combat power" of the U.S. Forces stationed in South Korea.

And the first batch of Patriot missile batteries which has left Texas will arrive in South Korea, timing to coincide with the Seoul trip of U.S. Secretary of Defense Perry in a few days, said the newspaper.

These are premeditated dangerous military moves to further destabilize the military situation on the Korean peninsula and, furthermore, to unleash another war.

As is known, the South Korean puppet clique have massively shipped in sophisticated weapons from the United States and "decided" to extend for an indefinite period the order to strengthen "the military posture of readiness" issued to the entire units of the puppet Army, which would cover the period from November last year to March this year. All the units of the three services of the puppet Army now are intensifying their "watch" to attack the North.

Such provocative moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean trigger-happy elements for Northward invasion are based on their scrupulously worked out operational plans.

Already in September last year the Kim Yong-sam group completed a "New Operation Plan No. 5027" for northward invasion with the U.S. military officials and have staged war exercises against the North with the U.S. imperialists almost every day.

Facts vividly show that the ever more undisguised new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique these days are an extension of their premeditated and intentional war moves stepped up from long ago.

Yet, the South Korean puppet clique are making quite a noise as if others were to blame for the tense situation on the Korean peninsula, raising a hue and cry over the fictitious "provocations" by the North. This is nothing but a despicable humbug for justifying their new war provocation moves.

The South Korean puppets are seeking to overpower the DPRK by "strength" in league with the U.S. imperialists and, furthermore, to gratify their wild ambition for "unification through Northward invasion" by force of arms, but it is a foolish daydream.

It is the unshakable will and policy of the DPRK to answer strength with strength, and dialogue with dialogue.

The U.S. imperialists and the "civilian" warmaniacs must ponder over things and stop acting rashly, looking squarely at the resolute will and determination of the Korean people who are fully prepared to cope with any event.

White Paper Issued on Japan's Nuclear Armament

Development at 'Danger Line'

SK1104102394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—"The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses the belief that the governments, parliaments, political parties and public organizations of all the anti-nuke and non-nuclear states and international organizations and peaceloving people all over the world will heighten vigilance against the dangerous moves of the Japanese authorities for nuclear armament and check and frustrate them, thereby actively contributing to peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world," says a white paper of the DPRK Foreign Ministry released on Monday regarding Japan's nuclear armament that has reached a danger line now.

It further says:

In defiance of the bitter international denunciation and apprehensions, Monju, the first fast breeder reactor of Japan, was put into normal operation on April 5. This is a dangerous step in Japan's moves for nuclear armament.

"Japan's nuclear armament being promoted on the danger line today is an open challenge to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the human desire to build a nuclear-free world. This is a question of which the international community must take a serious view."

The white paper roundly exposes the fact that Japan, opposing and distorting the "peace constitution," has manoeuvred overtly and covertly ever since the 1950s to adopt nuclear armament as its policy and legalize it under the veil of "three non-nuclear principles".

Citing data, it reveals that Japan has, in fact, completely laid material and technological foundations for the production of nuclear weapons.

Pointing out that though Japan is practically promoting nuclear armament on the danger line, the United States and other Western countries are turning blind eyes to this, while engaging themselves in a hysteric pressure campaign over the fictitious "suspicion of nuclear arms development" by the DPRK, the white paper says: "This double standard policy virtually encourages Japan's nuclear armament."

'Summary' of White Paper

SK1104112094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 11 Apr 94

["Japan's Nuclear Armament has Reached Danger Line—White Paper of DPRK Foreign Ministry"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—The Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea published a white paper on Monday [11 April] exposing Japan's nuclear armament which has reached the danger line.

"The 'Monju', the first fast breeder reactor of Japan, was put into normal operation on April 5 in defiance of the bitter denunciation and concern worldwide. This means a dangerous step in Japan's nuclear armament", the white paper says.

"Japan's nuclear armament which is being promoted on the danger line," it notes, "is an open challenge to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the desire of mankind to build a nuclear- free world. This is a question of which the international community must take a serious view."

Follows a summary of the white paper:

1. Japan has sought its nuclear armament from long ago.

Its ambition for nuclear armament has been fully revealed in remarks of successive Japanese authorities and official documents.

Article 9 of the "Constitution of the State of Japan" (Peace Constitution) which was adopted in November 1946 under the strong internal and external demand and pressure says: "The Japanese people, sincerely aspiring after international peace based on justice and order, shall abandon for good and all war, armed threat and armed action through the invocation of state power as a means of resolving international disputes. To this end, they shall not possess the Army, the Navy, the Airforce and other war potential and not recognize the right of belligerency of the state."

The successive Japanese authorities, however, urged by the desire to turn the country into a military power, a nuclear power, have tried by hook or by crook to justify their nuclear armament scheme from the 1950s, totally denying or arbitrarily interpreting the Constitution itself.

On May 7, 1957, the prime minister of Japan, Nobusuke Kishi, said at the Budget Committee of the House of Councillors: "If anyone simply mention the nuclear weapon, all people say it contravenes the Constitution. But such interpretation of the Constitution is wrong. ... [ellipses as received] Without looking into the future development, we cannot say uniformly that it is wrong to mention any kind of nuclear weapon". (Japanese book "Japan's Nuclear Arming Which Has Reached This Stage", 1975)

The Japanese authorities' wild design for nuclear armament was dealt a hard blow by the movement for the ban on atomic and hydrogen bombs which had gained strength within and without Japan from the 1950s. This compelled the Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, quite upset, to announce at the Diet in 1968 the "three non-nuclear principles"—not to manufacture, possess and introduce any nuclear weapon.

For this announcement, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

On June 2, 1969, however, he said at a plenary session of the House of Representatives that "the 'three non-nuclear principles' can be altered any time when the policy is changed or the cabinet is replaced by another" (the above-mentioned book), making it plain that these principles advocated by him were a rhetoric to deceive public opinion at home and abroad.

On March 2, 1978, the Japanese Foreign Minister, Sunao Sonoda, stated at the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives that "it is not that Japan cannot possess nuclear weapons, restricted by the provision of the Constitution itself" (the JIJI press, March 2, 1978). And, at the Budget Committee of the House of Councillors on March 15, 1984, the Japanese Prime Minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, answering an interpellation by a Komei Dietman, said that "Japan may possess atomic power, if it is for defence." (Japanese ASAHI SHIMBUN, March 16, 1984).

Entering the 1990s, the Japanese authorities, vociferating about the changed international situation, have openly revealed their scheme to step up their nuclear armament at the final stage.

Notably, Japan intends to work out within this year "General Principles of the Defence Programme Reflecting the End of the Cold War and Domestic Situation," holding forth upon the need to build up "defence capabilities to promptly and accurately cope with the possible dangerous events" in neighbouring countries such as "nuclear suspicion" and "missile development" by the DPRK.

Japan openly manifested its design to arm itself with nuclear weapons even on UN rostrums.

Till the first half of the 1960s, the Japanese Government, though reluctantly, voted for resolutions on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and ban on nuclear weapons at the UN General Assembly. From the latter half of the decade, however, it voted against or abstained from voting on such resolutions, thus disclosing its intention to become a military power, a nuclear power, at any cost by making haste with nuclear development in full scale and producing and stockpiling nuclear weapons. Explaining the reason why they voted against or abstained from voting on the resolutions, they said "total ban on the use of nuclear weapons is incompatible with nuclear deterrent" and it "might destroy the nuclear equilibrium". But, in actuality, this was an open and undisguised revelation on the UN rostrums of Japan's ulterior intention to produce and possess nuclear weapons and pave the way for overseas aggression so that they could use them in case of emergency.

Thus Japan has overtly and covertly manoeuvred ever since the 1950s to adopt its nuclear armament as a policy and legalize it under the veil of "three non-nuclear principles," opposing and distorting the "Peace Constitution."

2. Japan's nuclear armament has reached the danger line.

The nuclear policy of Japan is being promoted in two directions, that is, solving the problem of power by nuclear energy and, at the same time, securing a large quantity of plutonium for the manufacture of nuclear weapons by itself to proceed with nuclear armament any moment.

In July 1966, the first nuclear power station went into operation in Japan. Since then the Japanese Government has considered the construction of nuclear power stations as an important state policy for solving the problem of energy.

According to the director of the high centre of Social Sciences of France, in 1976, the United States made such special concessions to Japan as approving its civilian nuclear development and promising it a continued supply of highly-enriched uranium under a far looser inspection system than other allies in reward for its ratification of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. As a result, Japan has been able to freely reprocess nuclear materials and develop advanced technologies for its rearmament. (Radio France Culture, November 5, 1993).

Japan has already installed sufficient nuclear facilities for its nuclear arming.

At the beginning, the United States, with a view to controlling the nuclear development by Japan, sold to it only light water reactors feeding on U.S.-made enriched uranium and prohibited it from developing atomic reactors of other types. Under this condition, Japan developed a new-type converter mainly feeding on Canadian natural uranium with an investment of 404 million dollars. Situated in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, this reactor has been in a full-scale operation since 1979. (Japanese book "Imidas" 1992). In this way, Japan has gained relative independence in nuclear development, freeing itself from the control of the United States.

According to the "White Paper on Nuclear Energy" published by the Japanese Government in 1993, Japan has 16 nuclear power stations with 46 reactors in operation, which are capable of producing 37.36 million kw. This means that Japan ranks third in the world after the United States and France in the total designed capacity of nuclear facilities.

1993 alone witnessed the commissioning of 12 new reactors, and 9 units of facilities with a total capacity of 8.9 million kw are under construction. In all this, Japan annually uses some 3,000 tons of nuclear materials.

Japan may become a dangerous nuclear power with its capacity of nuclear weapon production largely expanded when 10 nuclear power stations, one fast breeder reactor, one uranium enriching plant, one radioactive waste storage (low standard) which are now under construction and four nuclear power stations including one new-type converter, one reprocessing plant and one radioactive waste storage (high standard) now projected are put into operation (Japanese book "Imidas", 1992).

Japan has secured enough nuclear materials to arm itself with nuclear weapons.

Japan set itself a long-range goal of depending upon fast breeder reactors feeding on plutonium in the 1950s when it started the development of atomic energy and it has produced and stockpiled a large quantity of nuclear materials by operating reprocessing plants from the middle of the 1970s.

Japan has stockpiled 26 tons of plutonium which far surpasses the quantity needed for the peaceful purpose. It is enough to manufacture more than 3,000 atomic bombs of Nagasaki type. (Japanese magazine "BUNGEI SHUNJU," June 1992).

Japan buckled down to the implementation of its "great programme for the use of plutonium" at the beginning of 1992.

In the period from 1975 to 1992, it brought in one ton of plutonium from Britain in top secrecy and reportedly shipped in 1.5 tons of plutonium from France in 1993.

What offers particular problem is that Japan plans to secure about 100 tons of plutonium by the year 2010, though the amount of plutonium actually needed by Japan is estimated at 85 tons. (KYODO News Service, October 5, 1992). This means that, by 2010, Japan will store 15 more tons of plutonium than needed for the peaceful purpose, which is enough to manufacture some 2,000 nuclear bombs. Therefore, Japan's claim that it has stockpiled "an appropriate amount of plutonium for economic development" can never be justified.

A latest report on the non-proliferation of nuclear materials including plutonium, which an influential advisory agency worked out, entrusted by the U.S. Defence Department, expressed deep concern over Japan's nuclear armament and said Japan should be urged to fundamentally reexamine its nuclear policy, demanding a stop to the project of the demonstration reactor for a fast breeder reactor.

Urging Japan to reduce the scale of the construction of nuclear power stations with 12 reactors feeding on plutonium planned to be completed by the year 2005 (to two) and stop the construction of a new-type demonstration reactor following the "Monju" and the construction of the reprocessing plant no. 2 in Rokashomura, Aomori Prefecture, the report said potential fear of Japan's nuclear arming is sprouting within the U.S. Government. (Japanese MAINICHI SHIMBUN, November 10, 1993).

Voice of America on April 6,1994 said that the commissioning of a fast breeder reactor in Japan is arousing serious apprehensions and uneasiness in the European countries and the United States, to say nothing of its neighbouring nations, and it is foreseen that it would give a greater shock to the acute nuclear issue. This indicates that Japan might become one of the largest nuclear state in the near future, the radio added.

Japan is possessed of modern means of nuclear delivery.

The socalled "Self-Reliant Defence Programme" worked out by the Japanese Defence Agency in 1969 makes it plain that Japan would continue to develop and possess domestic nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles for their delivery. (Japanese ASAHI EVENING NEWS, June 27, 1969).

Japan's system of launching nuclear warheads was established already during the "Third Program of Readjustment of the Defence Capacities" (1967-1971). The Japanese Defence Agency completed the "domestic production" of cruise missiles in 1985 in cooperation with the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and other companies. This cruise missile is a sophisticated guided missile which is available for the delivery of nuclear warheads and conventional warheads.

The Japanese "Self-Defense Forces" successfully carried out a test launching of a Japanese ground-to-warship missile (SSM-1) at the Pacific Missile Centre of the U.S. Navy in California in the summer of 1987. (the Japanese magazine "SEKAI SEIJI." First semimonthly number of January 1990).

As of December 1991, Japan was possessed of 393 155-mm howitzers and 132 203.2-mm howitzers which can fire nuclear warheads. The number of its nuclear-capable planes is on the steady increase.

It had secured 145 new-type fighter-bombers "F-15" with an action radius of 1,052 km by 1991. It plans to increase its number to 180-200 by the end of 1994.

It developed a new fighter-bomber "FSX" by remodeling the "F-16" in 1993 and plans to introduce 130 of it by the year 2000.

On February 4, 1994, Japan successfully launched a new "H2"-type rocket no. 1 developed entirely by its independent technology at the cosmodrome in Tanegashima, Kagoshima Prefecture. This rocket is tantamount to 50 metres in length and 260 tons in weight and can be converted easily for a military purpose.

The former director of the Atomic Energy Research Centre of Rikkyo University, Japan, stated that Japan has been able to make substantial material and technological preparations for manufacturing high-performance nuclear weapons in one month or so. More than 150 companies and over 3,300 factories are involved in the manufacture of nuclear warheads in Japan. In recent years, investments in this domain have sharply increased to jump from 1.73 million dollars in

1954 to 360 million dollars in 1991. (The Indian paper WORUM, March 11, 1994).

In actuality, Japan has built perfect material and technological foundations for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Concern over Japan's nuclear armament is expressed by government authorities of Western countries including the United States.

If Japan is armed with nuclear weapons, it will pose the most serious and grave threat to the Korean peninsula and, furthermore, it will harass peace and security of Asia and the rest of the world.

With Japan's nuclear armament reaching the danger line, the danger of the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula being made meaningless is increasing.

Though Japan is promoting its nuclear armament on the danger line, the United States and other Western countries are turning blind eyes to this and carrying on a hysteric pressure campaign over the fictitious "suspected nuclear development" by the DPRK. This policy of double standard, in fact, eggs Japan on to nuclear armament.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses the belief that the governments, parliaments, political parties and organisations of all the anti-nuke and non-nuclear states and international organisations and peaceloving people of the world will heighten vigilance against the dangerous moves of the Japanese authorities for nuclear armament and make positive contributions to the peace and security of Asia and the world by checking and frustrating them.

Request for 13 Apr North-South Contact Reported

SK1104125794 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1215 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The North side's chief of the North-South Liaison Office sent a telephone message to the chief of the South side today [11 April].

The telephone message said that the North side will send two liaison officials to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 1000 [0100 GMT] on 13 April to hand over to the South side the letter to the South Korean authorities, political parties, organizations, individual figures, and overseas compatriots which was adopted at a joint meeting of the DPRK Government, political parties, and social organizations.

ROK Students' Protest of Market Opening Cited

SK1204042294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 12 Apr 94

["Eruption of Resentment"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the vigorous fighting of South Korean students and people against rice market opening by the Kim Yong-sam traitor clique which is warming up along with their anti-U.S., anti-war and anti-nuke struggle. Assessing this as an eruption of their pent-up grudge and resentment against the Kim Yong-sam group which has bartered away their vital rights to outside forces, after selling the dignity and sovereignty of the nation, the news analyst says:

The traitor Kim Yong-sam during his U.S. trip last November begged for an "international cooperation system" to hurt fellow countrymen and, in return for that, secretly promised a total opening of South Korea's rice market to the United States. This folly could be committed only by such heinous traitor as Kim Yong-sam who schemes to maintain and prolong his power with the backing of his master even if the lifeline of the six million farmers of South Korea must be cut off, the economy as a whole be driven into a fatal crisis and the entire nation fall a victim to a nuclear war of outside forces.

In an attempt to lull the angry public sentiments, the traitor staged the drama of dismissing the puppet minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Behind the scene, he worked out a criminal document to widen the scope of farm market opening and is making haste with its "National Assembly approval."

With no bayonet-brandishing and deception can the fascist group block the righteous action of the South Korean people to defend the dignity of the nation and their vital rights.

Inevitable is the miserable doom of the treacherous regime of Kim Yong-sam.

Yi In-mo Corresponds With 'Friends' in South

SK1104103094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army known as the incarnation of faith and will, who had been returned to the socialist motherland, sent letters to his friends in South Korea who had treated and looked after him like their own flesh and blood.

The letters were sent to Kim Sang-won and his wife in Kimhae County, South Kyongsang Province, who had brought home and taken a warm care of Yi In-mo when he had been living a hard life at a home for the aged, with his both arms and legs unable to move freely due to cruel tortures by fascist hangmen, and to Sin Chun-yong, a journalist of the magazine MAL, who had actively encouraged him in his writing of memoirs and edited his script, and to women Christians Pak Hong-cha and Yi Mi-sun who had rendered both material and moral aid to Yi In-mo until his return to the socialist motherland from the time he was suffering in prison, and to So Chun-sik, an unconverted long-term prisoner, who had fought together with him in prison, and to Yim Sukyong, who had called on Yi In-mo to encourage him with ardent aspirations for the country's reunification.

Yi in the letters expressed thanks to them for their sincere help during his 34 year-long prison life and lonely life thereafter in South Korea, inquired after their health and wrote that he, a sick man unable to move around freely then, had completely recovered his health under the warm care of the DPRK and now enjoys a happy time with his family.

Anniversary of 10-Point Reunification Plan Marked

Signature Campaigns Reported

SK0804115694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA)—Signature campaigns supporting "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" were conducted in Lebanon and Mozambique.

The signature paper was signed by the chairman of the Lebanese Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification and secretary general of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Federation of Workers Unions on behalf of the committee and federation, the chairman of the Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party on behalf of the 50,000 party members, the general secretary of the Supreme Council of the Nationalist Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon on behalf of 80,000 party members and the chairman and the general secretary of the Lebanon-Korea Friendship Association on behalf of the association.

The signature paper was also signed by the international secretary of the Central Committee of the workers organisations of Mozambique on behalf of its 600,000 members and by the secretary of the Maputo committee of the Mozambique Liberation Front Party on behalf of the 1,500,000 citizens.

A signature campaign is going on in Madagascar.

Taking part in it are the party of the congress for the independence, the Monima socialist organisation, the equality militant, the socialist progressive party and the solidarity committee of Madagascar and public organisations under the Malagasy vanguard of revolution.

Some 2,300,000 people had signed the signature paper in the country by April 1.

Meanwhile, the organizing committee of the signature campaign supporting "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" was inaugurated in Togo on March 30.

The general secretary of the Togolese people's rally, authorized by President Gnassingbe Eyadema, signed the signature paper on March 31.

Yang Hyong-sop Reports

SK1204045094 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1102 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by Yang Hyong-sop, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA), at a joint meeting of the DPRK Government, political parties, and public organizations at Pyongyang's People's Hall of Culture on 11 April—recorded]

[Text] Comrades: At a time when the national unity of a nation of 70 million is required more urgently than ever before, today we are holding a joint meeting of the republic's government, political parties, and public organizations to discuss practical measures to implement the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for national reunification personally worked out by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on the occasion of the first anniversary of its publication.

Recognizing that this joint meeting has been convened at a very opportune time, now I am going to present a report "On Promoting the Indpendent and Peaceful Reunification of the Country by Thoroughly Implementing the 10-Point Program of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for National Reunification," presented to the meeting as an agenda item.

As everyone knows, last April, at a grim time when a dangerous situation—in which a war could have broken out at any time on the Korean peninsula and in which the nation's supreme interest might have been infringed upon—was created due to the anti-republic maneuvers by outside forces and their followers, a handful of antinational forces, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song published the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation for national reunification, which he personally worked out based on his outstanding plan to open the nation's way of living by turning adversity into prosperity with the whole nation's united strength. [applause]

The 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation, personally worked out by the great leader and adopted as the common action program of the nation for the peaceful reunification at the historic fifth session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], brilliantly elucidates a wide road that can eliminate barriers lying on the road of national reunification with the nation's independent strength and achieve peace in the country and its independent and peaceful reunification.

The 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation clearly elucidates first of all the program's basic ideology for all of those who are concerned about the nation's destiny to firmly unite as one nation, transcending the differences in their residential districts and advocacy of ideology, and to make characteristic contributions for the country's reunification and for grandeur and prosperity of a reunified fatherland. The 10-point program also clearly elucidates the general goal of great national unity on founding an independent, peaceful, neutral, and pannational reunified state through great national unity; the ideological foundation of great national unity based on the love toward the nation and the spirit of national independence; and the principle of unity on achieving the nation's coexistence, coprosperity, and common interests and on serving everything for the cause of national reunification.

The 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation also extensively presents practical ways for great national unity, including the matters on suspending all hostile activities and on achieving mutual trust and unity between the North and the South; the matter on advancing toward the road of national reunification together, irrespective of one's advocacy of an ideology; the matter on protecting all assets belonging to individuals and groups and effectively utilizing them for national unity; the matter on achieving mutual understanding and trust of fellow countrymen and their unity through contacts, visits, and dialogue; and the matter on highly assessing those who have contributed to great national unity and to the cause of national reunification.

The 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation for national reunification is a great encyclopedia for national unity and the banner of national unity which integrates the valuable tradition of great national unity established in the days when the respected and beloved leader founded the Fatherland Restoration Society [FRS]—an original anti-Japanese national united front organization—during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and led the anti-Japanese struggle for national liberation to victory by propagating the 10-point program of the FRS. The 10-point program also integrates the noble struggle experience attained in the struggle for building a new society and national reunification after the liberation. [applause]

The 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation, which contains the respected and beloved leader's idea of great national unity and his noble will for reunification and patriotism, is the most reasonable and realistic great political program for national unity and a great charter for national reunification to which anyone who truly loves the country and the nation and desires national reunification can consent because of its thoroughly independent, patriotic, nation-loving, fair, and just position incorporating all situations. [applause]

The 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation is the noble crystalization of the great, broad politics and benevolence politics of our leader, who has devoted his entire life since he set off on the road of the revolution shouldering the destiny of the country and the nation for the country's independence and the national growth and prosperity all by himself and who embraces each fellow countryman with a boundlessly broad mind, accepting even those who committed crimes before the nation broadmindedly and generously, and leading the 70 million people toward reunification with tender care. [applause]

Truly, that the respected and beloved leader promulgated the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation for national reunification and bestowed the great program for national reunification on the entire fellow countrymen is another immortal achievement he has made in the glorious history of the struggle to pioneer the destiny of the country and the nation with great unity of the nation. It is a political event which has opened a new chapter of great national unity that must be recorded in national history as a remarkable event. [applause]

The 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation commanded our nation's full support and consensus as soon as it was promulgated as it elucidated the ways to overcome the prevailing crisis and bring a breakthrough in the way of the nation. It vigorously encouraged and gave a strong impetus to the forward movement of the entire fellow countrymen toward national unity and national reunification.

As soon as the great leader's great historic reunification program was promulgated, the movement to implement the program was vigorously conducted as a pannational movement in the North, the South, and overseas, and the yearning of the entire nation for reunification became more intense than ever. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il—who devotes his all to bring our nation a reunified country upholding the noble will of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song—elucidated specific directions and ways to vigorously wage the struggle to implement the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation on the basis of the entire nation. He exercised his wise leadership so that all the fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas may unite on a pannational basis and launch themselves into the national movement to expedite and achieve reunification in the nineties. [applause]

Under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, we, in the northern half of the republic, have made every sincere effort to achieve reunification in the 1990's on united national strength under the uplifted banner of the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation.

In April 1993, we sent the text of the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation for national reunification to the authorities, political parties, public organizations, and individual personages in South Korea, including the chief executive [choegodanggukcha], and overseas compatriots, via international mail or various other means. And, in May 1993, we proposed an exchange of top-level special envoys of the North and South out of a single desire to open a road of national survival with the united efforts of the North and South and have repeatedly taken momentous measures to implement this proposal.

We also took positive measures last year to hold a pannational rally, which had taken place every year since 1990, in Seoul as a festival for the unity of the entire nation, both in name and in reality. We also opened the door to independent civilian dialogue [chajusonginnun mingan taehwa] and have made patient efforts to hold such dialogue.

South Korean people from all walks of life highly extolled the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation, describing it as the only banner of great national unity and a bright lighthouse that lights up the road of reunification, and are positively participating in the patriotic movement to implement this program.

The 5 million overseas compatriots residing in the five continents of the world have also launched the movement to collect 1 million signatures to implement the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation. They also proposed that this year be a year of great national unity and are vigorously waging a struggle for reunification and patriotism.

Revolutionary people of the world greatly supported and welcomed the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation because of its justness and compelling force. Over 200 party and state leaders of the world have sent us messages or letters of solidarity to express their firm support for the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation. Furthermore, solidarity organizations in over 100 countries of the world, including the Asian Regional Committee for Korea's Reunification and the African Regional Committee for Friendship and Solidarity With the Korean People, are boldly launching the movement worldwide to support the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation.

This worldwide solidarity movement launched greatly encourages our people and vigorously inspires all fellow countrymen into a struggle for reunification and patriotism.

For the past year since the release of the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation for national reunification, the historic work of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, compatriots in the North and South and overseas have been launching a reunification and patriotic movement for national reconciliation and unity, and the movement to extend solidarity with our people's struggle for independent, peaceful reunification has been launched worldwide. This vigorously demonstrates at home and abroad the justness and vitality of the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation. This also shows that a new phase is being opened for national unity and fatherland reunification under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

On this occasion, when we are discussing practical measures to achieve reunification in the 1990's based the great unity of the whole nation, I, with the unanimous loyalty of all fellow countrymen, respectfully extend the great honor and warmest thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, a peerless patriot, national hero, and lodestar of the fatherland's reunification, who released the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation, thus, brightly elucidating the road toward the fatherland's independent, peaceful reunification, and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, our nation's destiny and symbol of the fatherland's reunification, who is leading us to break through the prevailing difficulties and achieve reunification in the 1990's on united national strength. [applause]

Comrades, achieving the great national unity by implementing the 10-point program of the great unity of the entire nation for national reunification is a very important matter related to the life and death of the nation today.

In his 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation for national reunification, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The unanimous demands and will of the whole nation is to achieve national reunification by terminating the history of division and confrontation which has lasted for nearly half a century. The whole nation should achieve a great unity to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

The great unity of the whole nation is a basic condition for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland. The reunification we desire is for the whole nation to harmonize and unite as one.

The 70 million fellow countrymen in the North, South, and abroad should first unite as one nation in any place and in whatever work, to consummate the historic cause for the national reunification, transcending differences in thought [sasang], ideologies [inyom], and systems.

The country's stern tensions created by outside forces and their few flunkeyistic and nation-selling follower forces within the nation require that we take more decisive steps [kyolchongjok chochilul chwihalgosul yoguhago issupnida] than ever before to achieve the great unity of the nation.

As is already known, the South Korean authorities, who finally broke up the exchange of special envoys appointed by the North-South highest authorities—which had been newly initiated by our side and carried out amid the great expectations and interest of the people at home and abroad—are unprecedentedly kicking up a reckless commotion of confrontation as a shock brigade of the imperialist reactionaries' anti-socialist and anti-republic plots and leading our country to the worst situation of extreme danger [wihomchonmanhan choeagui satae].

Along with the United States, they have already formulated the so-caled New Operational Plan No. 5027 to invade our republic and have largely introduced lethal equipment—including fighter bombers, assault planes, and Patriot missiles—to South Korea from the United States. They have not only decided to again resume the provocative Team Spirit joint military exercise—which they had previously decided not to conduct—but also have inspired the atmosphere of war [chonjaeng punwigi] at home and abroad by loudly babbling that they should crush [apsal] someone by force.

Based on the unreasonable statement issued by the UN Security Council president, the South Korean authorities intend to escalate the commotion of pressure [apryok sodong] against us. Also, they are going to set a fire on a point of nuclear war by giving impetus to the nuclear development.

This clearly shows that the South Korean authorities have canceled the North-South agreement, promising nonaggression; nullified an agreement on converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone; and pursued only confrontation and war. It is clear to everyone that when a fuse of nuclear war is ignited on the Korean peninsula, this will bring ruin to our country, as well as destroy our nation.

It is now the time for all 70 million fellow countrymen in the North, South, and abroad to unite as one in order to solve all problems arising in our nation from the principle of national independence.

All fellow countrymen in the North, South, and abroad should unite as one for the sake of national interest; prevent the disaster of an approaching nuclear war [tagaonun haekchonjaengui]; remove the wall of division; and open doors for independent and peaceful reunification.

To make all fellow countrymen in the North, South, and abroad firmly unite as one under the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation for national reunification, an arena for national dialogue reflecting the intention and demands of the 70 million fellow countrymen should be prepared.

All Korean compatriots should be aware of their lofty sense of responsibility and duty of being not only the masters who are responsible for the nation's destiny, but also the persons directly pioneering the nation's destiny, should confirm through frank dialogue that they are fellow countrymen who cannot live divided, and should seek concrete ways to achieve national unity as one nation, transcending ideologies and systems.

Proceeding from this desire we courteously propose to the South Korean authorities, political parties, and public organizations, individual figures, and compatriots overseas that a national conference be convened in either Pyongyang or Seoul to seek ways for great unity of the entire nation with the upcoming 15 August, one year prior to the 50th anniversary of national liberation, as an occasion. [applause]

The national conference may be in the form of a roundtable conference in which the authorities, representatives of political parties and public organizations, and individual personages in the North and the South and representatives from the compatriots overseas participate are on an equal footing. The conference may openheartedly discuss the matters the whole nation is interested in, including practical measures to achieve great unity of the whole nation and the nation's common tasks which are raised as indispensable requirements in expediting reunification in the nineties.

Reflecting the desire of the compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas, I propose to send a letter containing the proposal for convening a national conference to the authorities, political parties, public organizations, individual personages in South Korea and to the compatriots overseas in the name of this joint meeting.

The letter containing our proposal for convening the national conference will, without doubt, evoke active support and sympathy among the compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas.

Also, I acknowledge that it is necessary to form a national conference preparatory committee composed of five delegates each from the North and South and overseas in order to successfully convene the national conference.

We think that it would be good to hold the first meeting of the national conference preparatory committee in Pyongyang or Seoul in around mid-May.

On this occasion, we demand that the South Korean authorities discontinue nuclear war exercises and abandon the international cooperation system for the sake of the great unity of the whole nation based on a stand of national independence and, thus, promote a favorable atmosphere for convening the national conference.

Our just patriotic cause of achieving the fatherland's reunification, the historic cause and the nation's earnest desire, with the great unity of the whole nation is ever-victorious.

Let us all more vigorously fight to achieve peace in the country and achieve reunification in the nineties based on the great unity of the whole nation in hearty response to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. [applause]

Joint Meeting Held

SK1104114294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1124 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—A joint meeting of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, political parties and public organisations for accelerating the independent and peaceful reunification of the country by thoroughly implementing "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song took place at the People's Palace of Culture on Monday.

Attending the meeting were Kang Song-san, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the Administration Council, Kim Pyong-sik, vice-president of the DPRK and chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, and other representatives of political parties and public organisations and officials concerned.

Yang Hyong-sop, alternate Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, delivered a report at the meeting.

The reporter said the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation which was authored by the great leader and adopted as a joint action programme of the nation for peaceful reunification, for the unshakable independent and patriotic stand and fair and above-board stand running through all its points, serves as the most reasonable and feasible grand political programme of national unity and a grand charter of national reunification, which is acceptable to all who truly love the country and the nation and want the reunification of the country.

All Koreans should, above all, get united as one nation irrespective of differences in ideology, idea and social system and occupation, in order to accomplish the historic cause of national reunification, the reporter said.

Stressing the need to arrange an arena of nationwide dialogue where the will and demand of the 70 million fellow countrymen could be brought together to closely unite all the Korean nationals in the North, the South and overseas in hearty response to the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation, the reporter said:

All the Koreans, conscious of their heavy national responsibility and obligation to shape the destiny of the nation by themselves, must confirm through open-hearted dialogue that they are fellow countrymen who cannot live separated from each other and seek a detailed way of achieving national unity, transcending the ideology and system as the same nation.

Out of this desire, we courteously propose to the South Korean authorities, political parties, organizations and individual figures and overseas compatriots to have a national conference for seeking a way for great unity of the whole nation in Pyongyang or Seoul on the occasion of August 15 this year, a year before the 50th anniversary of national liberation.

It may be a round-table conference to be participated in by the authorities and representatives of political parties and social organizations and individuals of the North and the South and representatives of overseas compatriots on an equal footing.

The participants may have an open-hearted discussion of practical measures for achieving a great unity of the whole nation, common tasks of the nation arising as prerequisites to realising national reunification in the '90s and other matters of concern for the whole nation.

I consider it necessary for the successful convocation of the national conference to form a preparatory committee of the national conference with five representatives each from the North, South and overseas.

We think that it is desirable to have the first meeting of the preparatory committee in Pyongyang or Seoul in mid- May.

We, availing ourselves of this opportunity, hold that the South Korean authorities must discontinue the nuclear war exercises and stop seeking an "international cooperation system" for the great unity of the whole nation, proceeding from the independent stand of the nation, to create a climate favourable to the convocation of the national conference.

Speeches were made at the joint meeting by Director Chong Mun-san of the Secretariat of the Administration Council; Vice-Chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Korean Social Democratic Party Kim Yong-ho; Director of the Secretariat of the C.C., the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland Yu Ho-chun; and Chairman of the C.C., the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea Choe Yong-hae.

They urged the South Korean authorities to give up their foolish intention to solve something by relying on outside forces and respond to the proposal for the convocation of the historical national conference, accepting the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation.

A letter to the South Korean authorities, political parties, organizations and individual figures and compatriots overseas was adopted at the meeting.

Officials Attend Meeting

SK1204051394 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpt] A joint meeting of the DPRK Government, political parties, and public organizations for accelerating the independent and peaceful reunification of the country by thoroughly implementing the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation for national reunification was held at the People's Palace of Culture on the afternoon of 11 April.

Placed to the front of the meeting locale was a portrait of the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song. Slogans read "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song." and "Long live the glorious Workers Party of Korea [WPK]." There were also slogans reading "Let all the fellow countrymen be united under the banner of great national unity in order to reunify the country," and "Let us add luster to the year of 1994 as a year of great national unity."

Attending the joint meeting were functionaries of the party, power organs, public organizations, religious organizations, and central organizations. Appearing on the rostrum were Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and premier of the State Administration Council; Kim Pyong-sik, vice president of the DPRK and chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, alternate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA]; Comrade Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Reunification Policy Committee of the SPA; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the State Administration Council; Yu Mi-yong, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party, and responsible functionaries of public organizations.

SPA Chairman Yang Hyong-sop first made a report at the joint meeting. [passage omitted]

National Forum Proposed

SK1104111494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1109 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—A joint meeting of the DPRK Government, political parties and public organizations held here today proposed to the South Korean authorities, political parties, public organizations and individual figures and Koreans overseas to hold a national conference either in Pyongyang or in Seoul to find the way of achieving the great unity of the whole nation on the occasion of the coming 15th of August, one year before the 50th anniversary of national liberation.

The joint meeting discussed practical measures to implement the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" personally worked out by the great leader President Kim Il-song, on the occasion of the first anniversary of its publication.

In his report at the meeting Yang Hyong-sop, alternate Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, proposed to hold a national conference whereby the seventy million Koreans in the North and the South and abroad can find the way of achieving the great unity of the whole nation transcending ideology and system as the same fellow countrymen.

In this regard he said:

"The national conference may be held in the form of a roundtable conference in which the authorities and representatives of political parties and public organizations and individual personages in the North and the South and representatives of Koreans overseas participate on an equal footing.

"The meeting may open-heartedly discuss concerns of the whole nation, including practical measures to attain the great unity of the whole nation and common tasks of the nation raised as indispensable requisites to achieving the national reunification at an early date in the '90s.

"We consider it necessary to form a preparatory committee for the national conference consisting of five delegates each from the North and the South and abroad in order to successfully hold the national conference.

"We think it advisable to have the first session either in Pyongyang or in Seoul toward mid-May in order to run the preparatory committee for the national conference.

"Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we hold that the South Korean authorities should discontinue nuclear war exercises and abandon the (international cooperation system) from the stand of national independence for the sake of the great unity of the whole nation and thus create a favourable atmosphere for the convocation of the national conference."

The joint meeting adopted a letter addressed to the South Korean authorities, political parties, public organizations and individual personages and Koreans overseas containing the proposal of holding a national conference.

Kim Il-song Birthday Observances Reported

Commemorative Stamps Issued

SK0904103494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—The Ministry of Posts and Communications has brought out new memorial stamps, postcards and envelopes on the threshold of the 15th of April.

Printed on stamps are Mt. Paektu and "Song of General Kim Il-song" sung loudly by the Korean people and the world people in praise of the great leader President Kim Il-song's revolutionary exploits.

Among them are stamps with kimilsongia and magnolia, the national flower, printed against the background of the old home in Mangyongdae, which reflect the best wishes of the Korean people and the world's revolutionary people.

There are also postcards and envelopes depicting in the immortal flower kimilsongia in full bloom the deep reverence of the Korean people and the world's revolutionary people longing for the old home in Mangyongdae.

Foreign Press Quoted

SK0904103294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—Foreign newspapers dedicated articles to the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The Indian paper INDIAN TIMES in an article headlined "President Kim Il-song, Elder Statesman of the World" said:

His Excellency President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was known as the youngest leader in the world in the 1940s and is lauded as the most veteran and authoritative leader today half a century since then.

President Kim Il-song is a great person who has a nearly 70-year long history of political activities which can be said to be the whole life of a man.

He is the only statesman and practician in the world history of politics who founded the chuche idea and has applied it to practical activities.

The Korean people deem it a pride and happiness in national history to have such a leader.

The Bangladesh paper BANGLA BANI in an article headlined "Best Wishes for Longevity to President Kim Il-song" said:

History has recorded many famous leaders, but does not know such a great leader as President Kim Il-song. He is a great thinker and theoretician and leader who has attained reputation as a true leader of the people. He has performed immortal feats in the struggle for the cause of the independence of the popular masses.

We wish a long life in good health to President Kim Il-song for the prosperity of Korea and the progress of mankind.

SANGBAD, FIREZ KAGOZ, JANATA, GONO GONTU and other leading papers of Bangladesh dedicated articles to the April 15 fete.

The Zimbabwean paper THE STAR carried an article titled "Poem of Praise Written by President Kim Il-song".

Zambia, Zimbabwe Celebrations

SK0904103194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—Celebration functions were held in different countries on the threshold of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

A joint seminar took place in Harare, Zimbabwe.

In his report at the seminar N.T. Mawema, director of a department of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front and chairman of the Zimbabwean National Committee for the Study of the Chuche Idea, said:

President Kim Il-song is recognized worldwide as a genuine leader of the people.

History has registered many statesmen but such a great leader as President Kim Il-song cannot be found in it.

The chuche idea, the great guiding idea of the era of independence, has a strong attraction in leading the struggle of the world people to victory. This shows the exploits of the president as a rare thinker and theoretician.

Since President Kim Il-song successfully solved the problem of the succession of leadership for carrying forward the cause of socialism to accomplishment, the centre of the leadership of the cause of global independence and the cause of socialism has been established, firmly guaranteeing its victory.

A celebration meeting, a lecture meeting and an opening ceremony of a month of DPRK photo exhibition were held in Lusaka, Zambia, by the housing construction company of the Kim Il-song Institute of Agricultural Science in Guinea and by the Coordinating Council of the Federation of Peace and Friendship Organizations of Mongolia.

Greetings From Foreign Leaders

SK1104070594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0526 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received messages of greetings from President Suharto of the Republic of Indonesia, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the Republic of Tunisia, President Frederick J. T. Chiluba of the Republic of Zambia and Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford of Barbados on the occasion of his birthday.

He also received messages of greetings from P.V. Svoik, co-chairman of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan, Peter Symon, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Australia, and Farouk Dahrouj, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party.

The messages warmly congratulated President Kim Il-song and sincerely wished him a long life in good health.

The Zambian president said that the birthday of President Kim Il- song is joy and happiness to the Zambian people.

He said it is to be regreted that the tense situation is being seriously escalated in Asia and expressed the hope that the situation would be solved peacefully through negotiation.

Gifts Sent From Abroad

SK1204053394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received gifts from the participants in the international chuche idea seminar on independence, peace and friendship.

The gift book "Kimilsongism, Banner of Independence, Peace, Progress and Prosperity" was handed to the head of the delegation of the Korean social scientists staying in India by Vishwanath, secretary general of the "International Kim Il-song Prize" Council and secretary general of the Chuche Idea Study Society of India, on April 10.

Gifts of the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea, the Italian delegate Dino Fiorot and the British delegate Keith Bennet were handed on the same day.

Fetes in Africa

SK1204102294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—The birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song was celebrated in different countries.

A celebration meeting took place in the West Mashonaland Province of Zimbabwe.

John Yoram, secretary of the West Mashonaland Provincial Committee of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front, in his congratulatory speech said:

President Kim Il-song has devoted his all to the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause, taking upon himself the heavy duty of the Korean revolution and the world revolution for a long period since he embarked on the road of revolution in his early years.

He has led the revolution of each stage to victory and built on the land of Korea a socialism centering on the masses.

He founded the chuche idea, the guiding idea of the present era, thus illumining the road ahead of mankind and giving scientific answers to all questions arising in the revolution and construction.

One of the most brilliant exploits performed by him for the Korean revolution and the world revolution is that he has theoretically and practically solved the question of inheriting the revolutionary cause.

It is the greatest glory and happiness of mankind at present to have held the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem.

Celebration meetings were also held in Dar-es-Salaam of Tanzania and at a hydro-power enterprise of Mozambique and the college of culture of Mongolia.

DPRK film shows, photo exhibitions, round-table talks, friendship gatherings, lecture meetings and other functions were held at the cultural centre in Egypt, the Hall of the "Art Plus" Association of France, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Ghana and in Kinshasa city of Zaire and Kara city of Togo and by the Communist Party of Cameroon and the Jordanian committee for solidarity with the Korean people.

Foreign Party Leaders Hail Kim Il-song

SK0904054094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received messages of solidarity from Heinz Stehr and Rolf Trimer, co-chairmen of the Communist Party of Germany; Narayan Man Bijukchhe, chairman of the Nepal Workers and Peasants Party; and Man Mohan Adhikari, president of the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism), supporting the struggle of the Korean people to defend the dignity of the nation and the sovereignty of the country.

The messages denounced the policy of confrontation pursued by the United States and the South Korean authorities, escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula, and expressed full support to the just and invariable stand of the DPRK to defend its sovereignty and dignity.

The messages declared firm solidarity for the just struggle of the Korean people led by President Kim Il-song against the war moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities and the struggle of the progressive forces in South Korea.

Russian Paper Praises Kim Il-song

SK1004081394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0803 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 10 (KCNA)—The Russian paper VETERAN No. 10 carried an article headlined "Veteran Statesman of the World".

The article said:

President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea became a head of state in the 40s of the present century. In those days he was known as the youngest leader in the world. He is recognized as the most experienced and authoritative elder, a leader of worldwide fame, today nearly a half century since then.

He has some 70-year long record of political activities. There is no man who has political experiences of so many years like him, we dare say.

His policies have been lauded by the Korean people and whole mankind for years. This is interpreted as the incomparable greatness of his immortal idea and his feats as a leader.

Once, many states of the Third World considered the destiny of their nations in relation to the orientation chosen by the big powers of the East and the West. But President Kim Il-song, with his high national dignity based on the chuche idea, indicated the unique way of building a new society. Therefore, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea could avoid the mistakes committed by the East European countries.

A U.S. journalist who witnessed the reality of Korea admitted that though the U.S. President was delighted to say socialism was living its last days, the socialism of Korea led by President Kim Il-song is victoriously advancing, gripping the hearts of the people of the five continents of the planet.

The Korean people deem it a great pride in their national history to have such a leader.

Daily Hails Kim Il-song as Great Leader

SK1004093694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0923 GMT 10 Apr 94

["NODONG SINMUN on Heroic Epical Record of Comrade Kim Il-song"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 10 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a by-lined article titled "Respected Comrade Kim Il-song Is a Great Leader Who Has Fought His Way Through Rigorous Storms of Revolution With Iron Will."

In the first part, the article says respected Comrade Kim Il-song is a great leader of the revolution who has performed immortal exploits, which will shine through centuries, pushing his way through raging storms of revolution with his iron will and rare leadership ability.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is quoted as saying:

"Although manifold grim tests hard to overcome cropped up in the way of our revolution including the anti-Japanese revolutionary war, the Fatherland Liberation War and postwar reconstruction, our leader met them with the iron will that the sky could fall and he would not care, and led the revolution and construction to a constant upswing with his extraordinary leadership ability."

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song enjoys undisputed trust and praise from the revolutionary people of the world as the most veteran leader of the revolution in our time.

Our leader's high authority and prestige are attributable to the immortal exploits he has performed for the time and revolution, victoriously leading the protracted and arduous Korean revolution.

What is most important in his leadership of the Korean revolution is that he has valiantly pushed through countless difficulties and trials standing in the way of revolution with a matchless iron will.

His will is an iron will which wavers not a bit in any thunderbolt, an unexcelled offensive spirit of courageously meeting manifold difficulties and trials and an indomitable fighting spirit. It is a great mental power unrivalled in resoluteness, staunchness and principle. Thanks to his iron will, the Korean people today win victory after victory in an acute confrontation with the imperialists.

What is also important in his leadership of the Korean revolution through grim trials of history is that he has victoriously led the revolution and construction, always full of confidence in victory and revolutionary optimism.

The just cause of revolution for the independence of the people is sure to win victory. This is an unshakable will and optimism which the great leader has maintained since the beginning of his revolutionary activities.

When some people who had been aspiring after socialism lost confidence after the collapse of socialism in some countries in recent years, the great leader instructed that the course of the change of the present situation must be viewed optimistically, not pessimistically.

Thanks to this revolutionary position and leadership of the great leader, the Korean people continue fighting staunchly for the accomplishment of the socialist cause of chuche, full of confidence in victory and optimism.

The great leader's leadership is also fully demonstrated in that he firmly believes in the people under the difficult and complex situation and unreservedly mobilizes their inexhaustible strength to push through the difficulties.

When you firmly believe in the people and rely on them at all times, you always emerge victorious; if you are forsaken by them, you always fail. This is the maxim the great leader has kept in his struggle and life since he embarked on the road of revolution.

With the noble idea of "believing in the people as in heaven" and wise guidance of the great leader who pushes ahead with the revolution and construction with absolute trust in the people and in reliance on them at all times, our socialist cause will constantly advance and emerge victorious, pushing through any storm and stress, with the great strength of chuche.

In the second part, the article says the proud history of our revolution which has emerged victorious through the rigorous storms of history under the wise guidance of the great leader teaches the people the precious truth of revolution.

The truth is that when the people fight, deeply trusting a great leader as their mental support, they can overcome any adversity and ordeal and win victory in the revolution, and that the unity of the leader and the people in a harmonious whole is a decisive guarantee for victory in the revolution.

Our people have been able to win a great victory in the revolution and construction, through so difficult and arduous struggles, because they have lived and fought staunchly with the great leader as their mental support at all times.

In our revolutionary ranks, the leader and the people are not merely in relation between the leader and the led, but they form a solid community, an integral whole of one ideology and will, breathing the same breath. The might of this integral whole is a main factor which has produced the singlehearted unity of the revolutionary ranks, strengthened our party and trained our revolutionary Armed Forces into an invincible combat unit.

Our people have a firm guarantee for victoriously advancing and accomplishing our revolutionary cause in any test and difficulty.

Our people are the most proud and happiest people in that they are under the wise guidance of the great leader and the dear leader who are victoriously leading our revolution through grim trials. We have a solid singlehearted unity, impregnable party and government, invincible revolutionary Armed Forces and a powerful independent economy with which we can advance the revolution and accomplish it with our own strength under whatever situation.

The history of revolutionary struggle of our party and people will shine forever as an ever-victorious history because the entire people are staunchly fighting in singlehearted unity with the great pride and honor of making revolution under the great leader and the dear leader.

Article on Kim Il-song's Guidance Cited

SK1204110294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—Thanks to the leadership of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song who has made uninterrupted trips to give on-the-spot guidance to the people all his life the Korean people are victoriously advancing the revolution and construction along a straight path, with the most correct line and policy of socialist construction, says NODONG SINMUN today.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is quoted as saying:

"The leader's life can be said to be a life of constant trips of on-the-spot guidance to the people. The leader has rendered great services for the people all his life and he is making uninterrupted trips of on-the-spot guidance to the people still today in his eighties."

The author of the article says:

The history of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary activities is recorded with protracted struggles and feats; it is a history of on-the-spot guidance, for which he has always found himself among the people and shared weal and woe with them.

He always goes wherever workers, farmers and working intellectuals live and work, hears what they want and demand, and fully reflects it in new lines and policies for a victorious advance of the Korean revolution.

The Chongsan-ri spirit and method, the revolutionary work method of our party, was created in the course of his continuous on-the-spot guidance. He guided Chongsan-ri on the spot for half a month, grasped with his keen insight the matured demand of our revolution at a new stage of development and clearly indicated the orientation and concrete tasks of socialist rural construction. In this period, he set a great example of the revolutionary work method, including the method of the superior helping the subordinate and giving precedence to political work in all affairs.

The unique policy of agricultural cooperativization, which was the first to indicate the way of transforming economic sectors on socialist lines before technical reconstruction, the Taean work system, a chuche-based system of socialist economic management, and the new system of agricultural guidance were all created and proved their worth in the course of his on-the-spot guidance.

In the course of his on-the-spot guidance, the great leader conceived and created with his tireless activities all the unique ideas, theories and policies of our party including the line of the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions, the rural theses, the theses on socialist education, the chuche method of farming promising bumper harvests under whatever unfavorable conditions, the invincible vitality of which has been fully displayed along with the victorious advance of our revolutionary cause.

If one believes in the people and relies on them, one gains everything and wins victory every time—this is the unshakable creed of Comrade Kim Il-song. So, he has traversed the long course of revolutionary struggle with absolute trust in the people and the firm determination to lead the revolution always in reliance on them.

There is no such leader as Comrade Kim Il-song who has performed great exploits, always finding himself among the people, sharing weal and woe with them and enjoying their praise and deep trust, with the noble idea of "believing in the people as in heaven" as his motto.

Our people deeply feel through their historical experience and reality how honorable and happy they are to live and make revolution under Comrade Kim Il-song who visits people for on-the-spot guidance all his life. They are staunchly fighting full of confidence and optimism, entrusting their destiny and future entirely to him.

It is because he always finds himself among the people, mobilizes them and leads our revolution from victory to victory, that the socialist cause of chuche is firmly defended, the challenges and aggressive moves of the imperialists and reactionaries were decisively repulsed and the Korean revolution and the cause of anti-imperialist independence have a bright future.

Kim Il-song Receives Russian Folk Dance Troupe

SK1204110594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received former Soviet labour heroine and people's actress Zykina Lyudmila Georgievna, president of the Academy of Russian Folk Culture and head of a Russian folk song and dance troupe, participating in the 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival, and her party.

Present on the occasion were Chang-Chol, vice-premier and minister of Culture and Art, and officials concerned.

The guests warmly congratulated President Kim Il-song on his birthday and wished him good health and long life.

After expressing thanks for this, President Kim Il-song had a talk with them in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and gave a luncheon for them.

He was presented with a gift by the head of the Russian folk song and dance troupe.

Foreign Media Cite Kim Il-song 'Reminiscences'

SK1204103194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—Vol. 1 of Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution" of "With the Century", reminiscences of the great leader President Kim Il-song, was published in Bengali by the Dibo publishing house of Bangladesh.

The seventh issue of the bulletin published by the Poland-Korea Association carried the full text of "An Echo of Cheers for Independence" from Vol. 1 of Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution" of the reminiscences and the Russian paper VETERAN detailed summaries of "An Chang-ho Delivers a Political Lecture", "The Path Taken by Cha Kwang-su", and "The Merger of the Three Nationalist Organizations" from Vol. 1.

The Russian paper PATRIOT No. 11 edited detailed summaries of "A Raging Whirlwind" and "A Polemic at Dahuangwai" from the Vol. 4 of Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution" of the reminiscences and the Nepalese paper MAJADUR KISSAN the full text of "An 'Ideal Village' Is Transformed Into a Revolutionary Village" from Vol. 2 of Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution" of the reminiscences.

Kim Chong-il's Anniversary as Defense Chairman Marked

SK0904060594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 9 Apr 94

["DPRK With Great Iron-Willed Brilliant Commander Is Impregnable"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate editorials to the first anniversary of the election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

NODONG SINMUN says:

Our republic that has the illustrious leader at the head of the defence forces of the nation, the revolutionary armed forces, is and will be impregnable. No enemy can freely infringe on the sovereignty of the Korean nation.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander with an unexcelled clairvoyance, tested leadership ability and matchless grit and outstanding intelligence, and a great military genius with both literary and military accomplishments.

Our republic has become a powerful and dignified country with invincible revolutionary armed forces as it has respected supreme commander General Kim Chong-il as chairman of the National Defence Commission and enjoys his leadership.

Our supreme commander General Kim Chong-il propounded the chuche-based idea of army building and is leading the cause of army building to a brilliant victory with his extraordinary wisdom and tested commanding art.

Thanks to his tested leadership, our People's Army is constantly growing in strength to be a matchless, formidable army in respect of loyalty to the party and the leader, organisation, discipline and military technique.

Under his wise leadership, the policy of training the whole army into a cadre army and a modernised army, arming the entire people and fortifying the whole country has been put into effect successfully and a powerful domestic self-reliant defence industry has been built. Never before have the defence capabilities of the country been so great and have our people had such a pluck as today.

We are prepared for both war and dialogue.

Our people and army staunchly advancing full of confidence and optimism with the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander and the chairman of the National Defence Commission will smash any counterrevolutionary offensive of the enemy and firmly defend Korean-style socialism, our life and soul.

MINJU CHOSON editorially stresses that the Army and people of the DPRK led by General Kim Chong-il, the great iron-willed brilliant commander, are invincible and victory and glory are set in store for them.

Daily Notes Kim Chong-il's Work on Health Care

SK0904110594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 9 Apr 94

["Guideline for Development of Chuche-Based Health Service"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates an article to the 20th anniversary of the publication of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's famous work "On Further Developing Health Care for the People" (April 9, 1974).

The author of the article says:

The work is a highly important guideline which opened a bright road of developing health service to a new, higher stage as required by the modelling of the whole society on the chuche idea.

The work says socialist medicine is preventive medicine, the basic mission of which is to prevent diseases and protect and promote the health of the people.

On the basis of a scientific exposition of the essence, character and basic mission of socialist medicine, the work calls for correctly implementing the party's policy of preventive medicine through energetic hygiene propaganda, hygiene culture, prevention of pollution and anti-epidemic work.

The work gives answers to all questions arising in the development of health care, including the enhancement of the standard of medical (?assistance), development of chuche-based medical science and technique and improvement of the quality of medical education.

The work has served as a powerful weapon in exalting the health care system of Korean-style socialism centred on the masses because it gives answers to theoretical and practical questions in the improvement of socialist health service and helps further develop health service as required by our revolution and the reality of health care.

A phenomenal progress has been made in health service and its material and technical foundation has been consolidated through the efforts to implement the tasks set out in the work over the last 20 years.

Today the number of doctors in Korea is 29.7 per 10,000 people and that of hospital beds is 136. This is the highest level in the world. 18.4 times of medical service is given to each head of the population in a year. Life expectancy at birth is 74.5 years.

German, Peruvian Parties Write to Kim Chong-il

SK1104070994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0556 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a letter of solidarity from Werner Schulwese, chairman, and Hans Wauer, vice-chairman, of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Germany, supporting the struggle of the Korean people to defend the dignity of the nation and the sovereignty of their country.

Expressing full support to the policies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cope with an armed intervention of imperialists, the letter said that the members of the Communist Party of Germany would stand firm on the side of the Korean people determined to defend socialism at a time when the imperialists are becoming undisguised in their campaign for pressure on Korea.

In a message to Comrade Kim Chong-il, Genaro Ledesma Izquieta, chairman of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru, expressed deep apprehensions for the grave danger of war created by the United States on the Korean peninsula recently after totally reversing the agreed conclusions reached between the DPRK and the USA in New York, and extended full support and solidarity to the Korean people in their struggle for the cause of socialism.

Russian Compatriot's Family Sends Gift to Kim Chong-il

SK1104115194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1110 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the family of compatriot Chong Il-sim in Russia on a visit to the homeland.

The gift was handed to an official concerned.

ROK Botanist Gives Camellia to Kim Chong-il

SK1204061594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a rare camellia presented by a South Korean botanist on the occasion of his birthday.

Camellia, an evergreen noted in Korea from olden times, is a plant which grows on mild seashores and foots of mountains and around houses in the central and southern parts of the country. It is also an ornamental plant.

The gift camellia with 52 growth rings is 6 centimetres in diametre at the bottom of its stem, 60 centimetres in height and 75 centimetres between tips of spread branches.

The botanist decided to present this plant to General Kim Chong-il, representing the desire of him and his colleagues to live like a camellia which stands green all the year round, letting its red flowers bloom, always revering the general.

Handing camellia to a fellow countryman, he said:

"This camellia carries the unanimous wishes not only of me and my friends but also of the South Korean people who hold General Kim Chong-il in high esteem.

"We ask you to courteously convey this camellia of the South Sea coast to the general who put forward a reunification strategy of chuche and is devoting his all to the noble cause of reunification with matchless grit and iron will."

Foreign Delegations, Artists Arrive in Pyongyang

SK0904000794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA)—A delegation of the October 8 revolutionary movement of Brazil headed by member of its Political Commission and Secretary Sergio Rubens, chairman of the overseas Christians Society for National Reunification in Germany Yi Yong-pin and his entourage and a family of compatriot Chong Il-sim in Russia arrived here today.

Also arriving here were a national art troupe of Nigeria, a folk song and dance troupe of Russia, the Benslama circus of Morocco, a Swiss soloist, an art troupe of France, Finnish musicians and a music group of Netherlands, the Pentarte art troupe of Italy, a Spanish musician, the Nile folk music group of Egypt and an acrobat of Egypt to participate in the 12th April spring friendship art festival.

Chang Chol Meets Egyptian Culture Vice Minister

SK1204043594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier Chang-chol met and had a friendly conversation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Monday with Abdul Rahman Abdul Farah, vice-minister of culture of Egypt who was participating in the 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

Present there were Vice-Minister of Culture and Art Choe Yong-ku and Egyptian Ambassador to Korea Ali Hegazi.

Foreign Minister Hails Gabonese Counterpart

SK0904110494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Jean Ping upon his appointment as minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the Gabonese Republic.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries will continue to develop, the message wishes him success in his responsible work.

Delegation From Ghanaian Ruling Party Visits

Delegation Arrives 11 Apr

SK1204014494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2309 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—A delegation of the National Democratic Congress of Ghana led by General Secretary Huudu Yahaya arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Kye Ung-tae, Politburo member and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], and Chi Chae-yong, vice department director of the C.C., the WPK.

Kye Ung-tae Hosts Ghanaians

SK1204051894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—The Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] hosted a reception for a delegation of the National Democratic Congress of Ghana headed by its General Secretary Huudu Yahaya Monday evening.

Speaking at the reception, Politburo member and secretary of the C.C., the WPK Kye Ung-tae said the WPK highly estimated the leadership of Ghana in its strivings to expand and strengthen the party on a broad mass foundation and for the national unity of the Ghanaian people and stability of the country and independent development of the national economy under the correct leadership of respected His Excellency President Jerry John Rawlings.

"We express full support to the position of the independent external policy of the party and government of Ghana advocating a new international political and economic order, adhering to the idea and principle of the non- aligned movement and developing South- South cooperation," he said.

Noting that the international situation now demands the bonds of friendship and solidarity be further strengthened between the two parties and two countries striving for national independence and independent development of the country, he expressed the belief that the delegation's current visit to Korea would make a new contribution to the development of friendly relations between the two countries.

Speaking next, General Secretary Huudu Yahaya said the chuche idea is a great idea expounding the position and role of man in the world, and a new international economic order can be established only on the basis of this idea.

Ghana always follows with deep interest the development of the situation in Korea, and holds that the DPRK-USA relations should be solved peacefully on an equal footing, he said.

He noted that they learn a lot of things from the great leader President Kim Il-song, the most distinguished man in the present time. The idea of the great leader who has devoted his whole life for the people must be followed in many countries, he stressed.

Officials Attend Event Marking Ties to Indonesia

SK1204053494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)— Indonesian Ambassador to Korea R. Muhamad Muharam Soemadipradja Monday evening gave a reception on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the opening of diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Indonesia.

Invited to the reception were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Kyu-il and other officials concerned.

Speeches were exchanged there.

Kim Chang-kyu Returns From Indonesia, Malaysia

SK1004141994 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Vice Foreign Minister Kim Chang-kyu, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's special envoy, returned home on 7 April by train after winding up his visit to Malaysia and Indonesia.

The great leader's special envoy departed Jakarta on 4 April after winding up his visit to Indonesia. He was seen off at the airport by (Nana Sutri), the Indonesian president's adviser on (?movement) affairs, other functionaries concerned, the DPRK ambassador to Indonesia, and embassy members.

During his visit to Indonesia, the special envoy met with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

Prior to this, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Chang-kyu visited Thailand, India, and Singapore as the head of a Foreign Ministry delegation.

Socialist Party of Kazakhstan Delegation Feted

SK1104102894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] arranged a reception Sunday evening for the delegation of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan [SPK] headed by its Co-Chairman P.V. Svoik on a visit to Korea.

Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, said in his address that leaders of Socialist Party of Kazakhstan visited Korea in April last year and again this time. We are thankful for your sincerity, considering it an expression of deep trust and solidarity of your party with the great leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and with our party and our cause of socialism, he noted.

He highly estimated the efforts of the SPK to achieve national reconciliation and unity, defending faith in socialism and build a society where all people live an equal life and sincerely wished it new greater success in the future work to build an independent and democratic society. Co-Chairman P.V. Svoik said in his address that the delegation of his party visited Korea for the second time, which means that his party is continuously developing friendly relations with the WPK.

He said it was happy to visit Korea at the significant time of greeting the spring holiday of April when Comrade Kim Il-song was born. The delegation of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan arrived here Sunday.

Kim Il-song Sends Greeting to Lao President

SK0804121994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to President Nouhak Phoumsavan of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on his 80th birthday.

President Kim Il-song in the message noted that President Nouhak Phoumsavan joined in the revolutionary movement in his early years and has worked devotedly at responsible posts of the party and the state for the consolidation of national independence and the happiness of the people and for the peace and prosperity of the country.

He wished the Laotian president, a close friend and brother, longevity in health and greater success in fulfilling his heavy duty as president.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Maltese President

SK0804121794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on April 8 sent a message of greetings to Ugo Mifsud Bonnici on his assumption of office as president of the Republic of Malta.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries would continuously develop, the message wished him success in the work for the prosperity of the country.

Government Economic Delegation Visits Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto Receives Group

SK1104015094 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto received our country's government economic delegation led by Hong Song-nam, vice premier, on 6 April.

During the meeting, the head of the delegation conveyed the greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The prime minister expressed her deep gratitude to this and asked the head of the delegation to convey her sincere greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The prime minister mentioned her impressions on the visit to our country and said that she feels it is her responsibility to develop the traditional friendship between the two countries and talked about how to further develop the friendship and cooperation in various aspects.

The governor of Pakistan's Sindh Province, the Sindh Province responsible officer, other functionaries concerned, and our country's ambassador to Pakistan were present on the occasion.

Economic Delegation Returns

SK1004085894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0845 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 10 (KCNA)—The DPRK Government economic delegation led by Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam returned home on Saturday from a visit to Pakistan.

It was met at the airport by Chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Yi Song-tae and Charge d'Affaires ad Interim of the Pakistani Embassy in Pyongyang Shafqat Ali Cheema.

Chang Chol Meets PRC Cultural Delegation

SK0904110694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—Vice Premier Chang Chol met and had a friendly talk with a Chinese cultural delegation headed by Vice Minister of Culture Xu Wenbo at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Saturday.

Present there were Vice Minister of Culture and Art Kim Chong-ho and a councillor of the Chinese Embassy here.

The delegation arrived here Friday.

Romanian Socialist Party Vice President Arrives

SK1204014294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2310 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—Vice-president of the Socialist Workers' Party of Romania Maria Lazar arrived here today.

She was met at the airport by Chi Chae-yong, vice department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Russian Duma Deputies View Korean Situation

SK0804121094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA)—Deputies to the state Duma of the Russian federation expressed deep concern over the situation of the Korean peninsula which had been brought back to an acute phase.

A joint statement was released on April 4 by seven deputies including the Deputy Speaker of the state Duma, A. Vengerovsky, and the chairman of the committee for issues of social federations and regional organizations of the state Duma, V. Zorkaltsev, with regard to the grave situation currently created on the Korean peninsula.

The joint statement said: "We are surprised and angered at the fact that some quarters of the United States, seeking the establishment of a so-called 'new world order', have raised a new unjustifiable condition to our traditional ally, the DPRK, and are increasing the tension again, threatening that they will resume the 'Team Spirit' joint military exercises with South Korea and not come to the third-round of the DPRK-U.S. talks."

The joint statement called upon the DPRK and the U.S. to take all necessary steps to continue the talks for guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula.

Kim Il-song Receives Family of Russian Compatriot

SK1104115294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1101 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the family of compatriot Chong Il-sim in Russia on a visit to the homeland.

Present there were Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee] the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials concerned.

The family warmly congratulated President Kim Il-song on his birthday and wished him a long life in good health.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for it, had a cordial conversation with them and gave a luncheon for them.

The family presented a gift to President Kim Il-song.

Workers' Party of Turkey Leader Visits

Arrives 8 Apr

SK0904000894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA)—Yalsin Buyukdagli, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Turkey, arrived here today.

He was met at the airport by Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Speaks at WPK Reception

SK0904054394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] hosted a reception for General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Turkey Yalsin Buyukdagli on April 8.

Speaking at the reception, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Chung-nin said the WPK supported the Workers' Party of Turkey, highly appreciating its energetic activities to strengthen the party and defend the political rights and interests of the Turkish working class and toiling masses and its staunch struggle for achieving peace and security against the war policy of the imperialists, remaining true to the socialist principle.

"It is of importance in defending and advancing the socialist cause and guaranteeing peace in Asia for the two parties to further strengthen the bonds of support and cooperation", he said, adding:

"The Workers' Party of Korea will in the future, too, make all efforts to strengthen and develop friendship and unity with the Workers' Party of Turkey."

Speaking next, General Secretary Yalsin Buyukdagli said that the Workers' Party of Turkey always remembers the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the Korean people who are defending the socialist cause, unshaken by the desperate moves of the U.S. imperialists and reactionaries.

"The U.S. imperialists and reactionaries are now crying that socialism has collapsed worldwide, but it is a sheer lie," he said, and added: "Today progressive mankind is convinced of a certain victory of socialism."

Noting that the socialism of Korea successfully advancing even under the present international situation is the future of mankind, he said Korea greatly inspires the turkish people struggling for a new society.

He said respected Comrade Kim Il-song has made great achievements in the revolution and construction by wisely leading the Korean people. "He is defending socialism and building a socialist paradise in Korea by relying on the strength of the people," stressed the Turkish party leader.

Meets With WPK Official

SK1204051694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0409 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—Talks were held here on Monday between Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Yalsin Buyukdagli, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Turkey.

At the talks the two sides inormed each other of the activities of their parties and situation and exchanged views on the need to further strengthen and develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and a series of matters of common concern.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Anniversary of Relations With Zambia Noted

SK1204103594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate by-lined articles to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Zambia.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries marked an important landmark in the development of friendly relations between Korea and Zambia, NODONG SINMUN says.

Zambia now is striving for the national unity and prosperity, it notes, and goes on:

The Korean people are rejoiced as over their own over the achievements made by the Zambian people in building a new society.

They will further strive as ever to develop the friendly and cooperative relations with the Zambian people on the basis of the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

MINJU CHOSON says that, pursuing the non-aligned policy externally, the Zambian Government is making every effort to strengthen unity and cooperation among the African countries.

Visitors Arriving in Pyongyang Noted

SK1204052094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—Shuhachi Inoue, director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, arrived in Pyongyang on April 11.

On the same day a delegation of old officials of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) headed by Paek Chong-won, chairman of the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Federation in Japan, and a delegation of Korean Social Scientists in Japan headed by Pak Yong-kon, chairman of the Association of Korean Social Scientists in Japan, arrived in Pyongyang to visit the socialist homeland.

New Delhi Hosts International Chuche Seminar

Joint Message Sent

SK0804121394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA)—The Central Peoples' Committee and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Thursday sent a joint message of greetings to the International Chuche Idea Seminar on Independence, Peace and Friendship which opened in New Delhi in celebration of the 82nd birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The current seminar is of particular significance as it is open at a time of historical turn when the cold war ended and the desire of the popular masses for independence has grown stronger than ever before, the joint message says, and goes on:

The chuche idea is the most independent idea for defence of the independence of the country and its free development against all manner of domination and subjugation; it is a peaceloving and internationalist idea which opposes aggression and war and urges the peoples of all countries to love and cooperate with one another and achieve common prosperity.

As they have strictly applied the chuche idea to the building of a new society under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the Korean people have been able to build an independent socialism centred on the popular masses and firmly defend the sovereignty of the country and strengthen friendship and solidarity with the world progressive people in face of the imperialists' moves to stifle our country, which have been intensified as never before.

When the idea of independence, peace and friendship indicated by the chuche idea is upheld, the age-old desire of mankind to live a free and peaceful life in an independent world and achieve an eternal prosperity, uniting and cooperating with one another, will certainly be realized.

Although there still remain on the globe the old forces seeking domination and subjugation, aggression and war and the people's cause of independence is undergoing a grim test, it is temporary and no force on earth can arrest the onward movement of mankind on the track of independence.

The message expresses the belief that the seminar will make a great contribution to the accomplishment of the noble cause of mankind for realizing the idea of independence, peace and friendship and wishes the seminar success.

'Large Attendance' Reported

SK1004092594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0856 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 10 (KCNA)—An International Chuche Idea Seminar on Independence, Peace and Friendship opened with a large attendance in New Delhi Friday [8 April] on the threshold of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

It was attended by delegations and delegates from 20 countries, delegates of international and regional chuche idea study organisations and political, public and academic figures of India, more than 500 in all.

A delegation of Korean social scientists and a delegation of Korean social scientists in Japan were also present.

Indian personages including former President Giani Zail Singh made congratulatory addresses at the seminar.

They highly praised His Excellency President Kim Il-song as the great leader who embarked upon the road of revolution in his early years and has performed immortal feats for the cause of independence of mankind and sincerely wished him a long life in good health for the accomplishment of this cause.

Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Association Korean Social Scientists Association, conveyed a joint message of congratulations from the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the DPRK to the seminar.

Introduced at the seminar were congratulatory messages from Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and high-placed officials of India, Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk, the chairman of the International Disarmament Committee, the UNDP [United Nations Development Program], the UNESCO and other international organisations and chuche idea study organisations of different countries.

Prof. and Dr. T.B. Mukherjee, president of the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea and vice director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, made a report titled "Chuche Idea Is a Scientific Doctrine Indicating the Road of Independence, Peace and Friendship."

The seminar continues.

Regional Chuche Board Meets

SK1004085494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0844 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 10 (KCNA)—The seventh board meeting of the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea (ARIJI) was held in New Delhi on April 8.

The meeting reviewed the activities of the ARIJI after its sixth board meeting and discussed future tasks.

ARIJI Secretary General Govind Narain Srivastava made a report titled "Let Us More Energetically Study and Disseminate the Chuche Idea To Achieve Asian Independence".

The reporter said the achievements in the institute activities in the period of review are that it has been proved through realities that the confidence in socialism of chuche has rooted in the minds of the Asian followers of the chuche idea as a strong ideological pillar unshaken in any trial and the study and dissemination of this idea have been conducted in various forms and ways in close combination with the specific conditions.

"Those brilliant achievements are a precious fruition of the wise guidance and deep solicitude of the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song and the dear leader His Excellency Kim Chong- il," he added, and said:

"We are facing an honorable task at present to consolidate and develop these achievements and make a positive contribution to bringing about a turn in the consciousness of the popular masses who have risen up in accomplishing the noble cause of building an independent, new world. Outlining the task, he said:

"If the study and dissemination of the chuche idea are to be developed in conformity with the requirement of the realities, greater efforts should be directed to the study and dissemination of the ideas and theories of the dear leader His Excellency Kim Chong-il.

"In recent years His Excellency Kim Chong-il has developed and enriched the chuche idea and published many monumental works giving profound answers to the urgent problems raised by the present era.

"We should conduct brisk activities for the publication and dissemination of these works, study and disseminate the chuche idea with them as the basic textbooks, and study, analyse and solve the practical problems on the basis of the profound ideas expounded in the works.

We should expand the ranks of the followers of the chuche idea and, on this basis, broaden our organizations and strengthen ideological and moral unity and cohesion of their members, thus making our organizations a model for the collectives of socio-political life which serve the people's cause of independence.

"Clearly conscious that defending Korean socialism is immediately to defend our own idea, we should lift up louder voices exposing and denouncing the imperialists' anti-socialist moves and closely rally all the socialist forces under the banner of the Pyongyang declaration. And we should wage a vigorous movement against a nuclear war in Korea, solidarizing with anti-war, peace organizations and make a positive contribution to an early realization of the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, mindful of the important position of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea in achieving the independence and peace of our continent.

International Chuche Board Meets

SK1004085194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0835 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 10 (KCNA)—The 11th meeting of the board of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea (IIJI) took place in New Delhi on April 8.

The meeting dealt with the question of ensuring the success of the International Chuche Idea Seminar on Independence, Peace and Friendship to be held on the threshold of the 82nd birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song, reviewed the activities of the IIJI in 1993 and discussed the action program for 1994.

Shuhachi Inoue, director general of the board of IIJI, made a report at the meeting under the title "Let Us Conduct More Energetic Study and Dissemination of the Chuche Idea for the Building of an Independent New World".

The reporter said the chuche idea founded by respected President Kim Il-song and developed in depth by esteemed Secretary Kim Chong-il serves as the guiding idea of our era, the era of independence, because it is the outlook on the world and the view of value indicating the way of realizing the independence of man.

Touching on the achievements made in last year's activities for the propaganda and dissemination of the chuche idea and its study, he said political parties of a number of countries have defined this idea as their guiding idea and are assiduously studying it and the chuche-based theory of party building and applying them to their party activities.

He outlined this year's tasks to invigorate the study of the chuche idea and its propaganda and dissemination.

"All the chuche idea study organizations and followers of the chuche idea," he said, "should continue to widely conduct the study and discussion of classical works of President Kim Il-song and Secretary Kim Chong-il, regarding them as the textbooks."

He stressed that they should deeply study and discuss the general principles and theories of the chuche idea in combination with practical problems, thus finding a correct way of building an independent, new world and accelerating the historical turn to this world.

IICI Head Delivers Report

SK1004084994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0829 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 10 (KCNA)—The International Chuche Idea Seminar on Independence, Peace and Friendship opened in New Delhi on April 8, at which Prof. and Dr. T.B. Mukherjee, vice-director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea [IICI] and president of the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea, made a report entitled "The Chuche Idea Is a Scientific Doctrine Indicating the Road of Independence, Peace and Friendship".

The reporter said the universal truth of the chuche idea has been more eloquently proved by the trend of the development of history in which the desire of the popular masses to advance towards independence has grown more intense than ever before after the end of the Cold War.

"President Kim Il-song founded the chuche idea, the first man- centred doctrine in history, which scientifically shows the road of shaping the destiny of man, giving peoples high pride and consciousness of being the masters of the world and their own destinies and powerfully inspiring them to the building of an independent, new world, the century-old desire of mankind," he stressed.

Referring to the historical inevitability of the downfall of imperialism and the appearance of an independent, new world, he said:

"If the imperialists persist in their policy of strength to maintain and expand the old order of domination and subjugation, taking advantage of the collapse of the balance of forces in the world arena, they will not only face a strong resistance of the anti-imperialist independent forces but also be forsaken by their companions and meet their destruction in the long run.

"The downfall of imperialism is inevitable in the development of history but it will never quit the arena of history voluntarily. In order to hasten its fall it is urgent to form a broad anti-imperialist, anti-U.S. joint front. All the countries of the world aspiring after independence and peace, including the socialist countries and non-aligned nations, and political parties, public organizations and international organizations should join this front on a broad basis.

"Only when the developing countries realize regional economic cooperation under the banner of collective self-reliance is it possible to jointly defend the regional economic interests from the imperialist plunder and successfully ensure economic exchange and development among nations.

"The material foundation of an independent world will be laid when the gap in wealth between the developed capitalist countries and the developing countries is narrowed and homogeneity is increased in economic development. If an independent idea and culture are developed and the world political order is democratized to correspond with this material foundation, the knell of imperialism will be sounded and an independent, new world will come into being".

Noting that independence, peace and friendship are the basic idea of global independence, the reporter quoted respected President Kim Il-song as saying:

"Independence, peace and friendship are the common ideals of the progressive people of the world. The Cold War has ended and the democratic and independent development of the international community will be accelerated still faster.

The 21st century will be a new historic century in which the people of all countries will enjoy welfare and prosperity in a free and peaceful new world."

"The basic demand preferential in creating an independent, new world is to apply the idea of independence," the reporter said, and continued:

"Independence is the life not only of each man but also of each country and nation and, furthermore, the common life of mankind.

"Each nation must firmly maintain its independence and respect other's independence.

"Defending the principle of independence in international relations is not contradictory to internationalism but is the basis of true internationalism.

"The main target of struggle in realizing the idea of independence is the imperialist forces. This idea will be realized on a full scale when the anti-imperialist independent forces the world over check and frustrate the dominationist moves of the imperialists by their united strength.

"It is an indispensable prerequisite to the building of an independent, new world to prevent war and ensure peace of the world. To this end, it is necessary to get rid of the dominationist idea of power almighty favoring the settlement of all issues by strength, which is a mode of thinking in the Cold War.

"All the peaceloving forces should launch a vigorous struggle to check and frustrate the arms expansion by the imperialists, remove their aggressive military bases in other countries, get the aggressive military blocs dissolved, create nuclear-free, peace zones in many regions of the world and realize a universal and complete disarmament.

"It is an essential requisite to the building of an independent, new world to develop friendly and cooperative relations among peoples defending independence. An important question in developing those relations at present is to destroy the old international order and establish a new, fair one in all spheres, politic, economic and cultural.

"Developing South-South cooperation is an important way of ensuring friendship and cooperation among peoples and achieving common prosperity of mankind".

Calling for active propaganda and dissemination of the chuche idea, the reporter said:

"It is the chuche idea which scientifically indicates the main orientation and ways for the development of the present era heading for an independent, new world. It is the demand of the times and honorable duty to widely disseminate this idea.

"What is most important in propagandising and disseminating the chuche idea is to make a deep study of works of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the sagacious leader of the Korean people. His works consummate the precious experiences of the Korean people in successfully building anthropocentric socialism with a singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses and give profound answers to the important theoretical and practical problems arising in the advance of mankind along the road of independence in the present time. That is why his many works, including 'The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party', 'On the Fundamentals of Revolutionary Party Building' and 'Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable", have evoked a great sympathy among the progressive people of the world today."

The reporter stressed the need to conduct the work of disseminating the chuche idea among the broad masses of people through various art activities based on the chuche view of life and value and in combination with various socio-political activities such as the movement for democracy, anti-war, anti-nuke peace movement and environmental protection movement in close link with progressive political parties.

He said each chuche idea study organization should conduct the work of disseminating and applying the chuche idea by its own efforts in conformity with the interests of its people and specific conditions of its country and lead the popular masses to be the masters in this work.

He called for an energetic effort for the dissemination of the chuche idea to accelerate with redoubled vigor the building of an independent, new world where the ideals of independence, peace and friendship would be embodied.

Seminar Opens 2d Session

SK1104065294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0542 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—The second-day session of the International Chuche Idea Seminar on Independence, Peace and Friendship was held in New Delhi on April 9.

A course of lectures was given at the session.

Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Korean Social Scientists Association, and Shuhachi Inoue, director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, gave lectures on the respective subjects "Present Era and Ideal of Mankind" and "Inevitabilities of the Downfall of Capitalism and Victory of Socialism".

Pointing out that socialism is a true society of people whose master is the popular masses, Shuhachi Inoue stressed it is clearly verified by Korea's socialism, the embodiment of the chuche idea.

He explained why Korea's socialism is growing stronger and ever-victorious even under the present complicated situation in which socialism has suffered setbacks and capitalism revived in some countries.

He stressed the need to remain loyal to the great leader President Kim Il-song, founder of the immortal chuche idea, and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, guide of the socialist cause, for the victory of the human cause of socialism and the cause of independence and to effect a new turn in propagandising and disseminating the chuche idea.

The seminar continues.

ARICI President Awarded Prize

SK1204014694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2243 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—"International Kim Il-song prize" was awarded to T.B. Mukherjee, president of the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea (ARICI) who is vice-director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea.

An awarding ceremony took place in New Delhi on April 9.

Congratulatory speeches were made at the ceremony by former Indian President Giani Zail Singh, the former general secretary of the Indian National Congress Party (I), Director General of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea Shuhachi Inoue, Secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India M. Farooqi and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Hwang Chang-yop who was leading a delegation of Korean social scientists.

They said the awarding of the "International Kim Il-song Prize" to T.B. Mukherjee was a common honor and joy for all the members of the chuche idea study organizations and the progressive people who are following the chuche idea, the most excellent of the progressive ideas founded by mankind, and struggling for global independence.

T.B. Mukherjee in his speech said he, as a soldier of the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song and the dear leader His Excellency Kim Chong-il, would resolutely fight to the end with firm confidence in the cause of socialism, the cause of independence, under whatever circumstances.

Seminar Adopts Declaration

SK1204103494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—A declaration was adopted at the international chuche idea seminar on independence, peace and friendship held in New Delhi.

It says the seminar was a more significant and auspicious meeting as it was held on the occasion of the 82nd birthday of respected president Kim Il-song, the founder of the immortal chuche idea and guide of the popular masses' cause of independence.

"The seminar stressed in unison that though the onward movement of mankind is undergoing a test, it is temporary, and the present time is an era of a historic turn in which the people refuse the old world of domination and subjugation and they are advancing toward a new independent world," the declaration notes, and continues:

"Independence, peace and friendship are the basic idea which must be applied to the international relations for the building of a new world, independent and peaceful, in which the peoples of all countries around the world would develop and prosper alike, loving and cooperating with each other as the common masters of the world.

"The great chuche idea is the true outlook on the world in our era whereby mankind can realise its age-old desire to live and develop independently and creatively, loving and cooperating with each other in a free and peaceful world without domination and subjugation, aggression and war.

"We express full support and firm solidarity for the just efforts of the Korean people to reunify the country independently and peacefully, firmly defending the cause of socialism under the banner of the chuche idea.

"Today the entire Korean people are waging a resolute struggle to defend and develop socialism, singleheartedly united around dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the outstanding leader of the Workers' Party and people of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, thus powerfully demonstrating the advantages and invincible vitality of anthropocentric socialism, an embodiment of the chuche idea.

"It is a noble duty of the followers of the chuche idea and the progressive people the world over to actively defend the socialism of Korea from the attack and abuses of the imperialists and reactionaries.

"We strongly reject any attempt to stifle the socialism of Korea under the pretext of 'nuclear issue', regarding it as an act going against the trend of the times toward independence and a challenge to the progressives.

"We must not be pessimistic but optimistic of the events of the last decade of the 20th century and greet the new century with firm readiness and determination to more vigorously push ahead with the onward movement of history toward independence.

"No force can turn back the powerful flow of our era toward the building of an independent, new world under the banner of the chuche idea and the cause of independence of the masses will certainly end in victory."

Seminar Ends Session

SK1204045994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—The international chuche idea seminar on independence, peace and friendship which had been held in New Delhi in celebration of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song closed on Sunday.

At the closing ceremony "Kimilsongism, Banner of Independence, Peace, Progress and Prosperity", a book published in India on the occasion of the birthday of President Kim Il-song, was introduced to the participants and a congratulatory message of a congratulatory group of the Indian youth read out.

Letters to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted at the closing ceremony.

Then followed the adoption of a letter to the Indian president, Shankar Dayal Sharma, and a declaration of the seminar.

Shuhachi Inoue, director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, who is the "International Kim Il-song Prize" winner, in his closing address stressed that the current seminar was a historical gathering that vividly proved the validity and invincible vitality of the chuche idea through the successful discussion of the theoretical and practical questions and ways in opposing the imperialist aggression and arbitrariness and building an independent, peaceful new world on the basis of the immortal chuche idea.

On the same day, a banquet was arranged in New Delhi in celebration of the birthday of President Kim Il-song.

Hwang Chang-yop, Social Scientists Return

SK1204051794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—A delegation of Korean social scientists led by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the C.C., Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and chairman of the Association of Korean Social Scientists, returned home on Monday after participating in the International Chuche Idea Seminar on Independence, Peace and Friendship held in India.

It was met at the airport by Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

Conference of Natural Science Researchers Held

SK1104070694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0538 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—A national meeting of activists in natural scientific research was held here over April 8-10.

The meeting reviewed the achievements and experiences gained in natural scientific research in the past and discussed the tasks and measures to effect a new turn in scientific research conducive to implementing the party's revolutionary economic strategy.

The meeting was attended by Kang Song-san, Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and Premier of the Administration Council, Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and officials concerned.

The meeting pointed out that to thoroughly implement the agriculture-first policy it is necessary to deepen research work contributable to carrying on the rural technical revolution on a higher stage, accelerating the green revolution and developing new branches of agroscience and to promote the industrialization and modernization of agriculture.

It laid stress on gaining new success in the research work to successfully solve the scientific and technical matters arising in carrying out the light industry-first policy and to develop foreign trade.

The meeting called for solving the urgent scientific and technical bottlenecks, developing the electronics, mechanic engineering, heat engineering of new materials, biology and chemistry onto a higher stage, deepening the research on such new scientific and technical fields as super-pressure, ultracryogenics and laser and putting great efforts to developing basic sciences as mathematics and dynamics.

A letter of pledge to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

Spring Friendship Art Festival Opens

Festival History Noted

SK0904104094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—The Grand 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival opened today at the 6,000-seat theatre of the February 8 House of Culture in Pyongyang.

Participating in the festival are international contest prize winners, famous actors and actresses from different countries, overseas Korean artistes and home artistes, more than 3,000 in all.

In April in which the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song is celebrated significantly, foreign artistes have gathered in Pyongyang from 1982 to show successes achieved in the development of national art and deepen the feelings of friendship, exchanging precious experiences. Now this has become a tradition.

The festival greatly inspires the world progressive people and men of literature and art, and is gaining ever wider fame for its noble idea and purpose of independence, peace and friendship.

In his congratulatory speech at the opening ceremony, Kang Song- san, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the Administration Council, said that the Korean people and men of literature and art are greatly proud of the 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival opening with splendor when the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is being significantly celebrated. He stated that every effort would be made to further develop the art festival.

He said the Korean men of culture and art are making a leaping progress in literary and art activities under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and steadily developing cultural exchange with various countries.

Kang Song-san expressed the belief that the current festival will prove successful thanks to the energetic activities and sincere efforts of the entire participants and greatly contribute to the development of human literature and art.

Heads on the Chinese cultural delegation, Nile folksong troupe of Egypt, Cuban art troupe, Russian folk song and dance troupe and the Korean art troupe from Japan made congratulatory speeches.

Individual and group performances will be given from April 9 to 12, joint performances from April 13 to 16 and the closing ceremony on April 18.

Foreign Delegations Arrive

SK0904151794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—Cambodian royal song and dance troupe, Pakistani art troupe and a Pakistani soloist arrived here today to participate in the 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

A delegation of the Japan-Korea music and art interchange society arrived here Friday.

Participants Honored

SK1004082694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0809 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 10 (KCNA)—The Organizing Committee of the 12th April Spring Friendship Art

Festival hosted a banquet at the People's Palace of Culture Saturday for the participants in the festival.

Invited to the reception were the members of foreign art troupes and members of overseas Korean art troupes.

Present there were Chang Chol, vice-premier and minister of culture and art, who is chairman of the festival organizing committee, Kang Hyon-su, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, other officials concerned and artistes in the city.

A speech was made at the reception.

Art Festival Reviewed

SK1104070894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0547 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—The 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival opened in Pyongyang and now is going on successfully.

Artistes and acrobats from many countries on the five continents and Korean artistes overseas put on stage colourful numbers winning high appreciation of the audience.

The festival places becoming more and more animated with each passing day are daily packed to capacity with working people in the city.

Festival flags and buntings are fluttering and marks, decorations, large posters and welcome slogans symbolic of the festival can be seen at theatres and halls where performances are given, including the Mansudae Art Theatre, the Pyongyang Grand Theatre and the Pyongyang International Cinema House, and on the streets of the city, adding to the festival atmosphere.

The festival which has developed into an authoritative and high-level grand art festival worldwide with the passage of time has been held traditionally from 1982 to celebrate the 15th of April, the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Up until now, more than 700 art troupes and circus groups from almost all countries in the world have participated in the festival and the number of artistes and acrobats involved in it totaled several ten thousands.

Among them were many famous artistes including national and international concourse prize winners and people's artistes and merited artistes.

More than 100 famous artistes including international music, dance and circus concours and contest entrants are participating in the current festival.

During the festival, they will enjoy an impressive, pleasant time with sightseeing, amusement games, etc.

Performances Reported

SK1104115494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1135 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—Foreign artistes and Korean artistes overseas participating in the 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival gave their premiere before full houses at the Mansudae Art Theatre, the February 8 House of Culture, the Ponghwa Art Theatre, the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre and other theatres in Pyongyang Sunday, separated into several groups.

The colorful program of the festival, which began at a time when the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song was significantly being celebrated, include songs, dances and instrumental music.

Participating in the current festival are more than 100 international and domestic contest prize winners and other famous actors and actresses and many art troupes and artistes who have participated in the art festival on several occasions to become intimate with the Korean people.

Foreign artistes put on the stage songs written and composed by themselves in praise of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and Korean songs, delighting Korean people celebrating the holiday.

The Bangladeshi artistes sang "Song of Praise to the Great Leader" they had long prepared for the Pyongyang festival, winning the acclamation of the audience.

The trio of the Congo sang the song "Happiness of Mankind" reflecting the ardent desire of the world revolutionary people to always revere President Kim Il-song as the sun of mankind together with the Korean people, though they are different nations and have different languages and colors.

A Cuban vocal soloist Mario Travieso, a domestic contest prize winner, sang in Korean the Korean song "Good Health and Long Life to the Leader" and Mongolian artistes Korean songs "It Is Snowing" and "Soil and Soldier" in Korean, deeply impressing the audience.

Head of a delegation of the Japan-Korea music and art interchange society Mitsuko Ogasawara who has participated in the festival on several occasions to be well known to the Korean people sang the Korean song "We Will Go Together, Singing of Joy" to be applauded by the audience.

N.A. Tlendiev, the conductor of the Kazakh art troupe and former people's actor of the Soviet Union, in the orchestral music "Thought of Comrade Kim Il-song" he wrote and composed after reading the reminiscences of the great leader "With the Century", emotionally presented his idea of "Believing in the People as in Heaven."

Artistes from China, Russia, Cambodia, Yugoslavia, France, Nigeria, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Switzerland,

and other countries put on the stage songs and dances reflecting the customs of their peoples.

Korean artistes overseas, happy to be embraced in the bosom of the great father, the homeland, ardently sang of their reverence for the respected leader President Kim Il-song.

China-resident Korean artistes in a narrative and song "Let Us Sing of Fortune in Having the Sagacious Leaders" sang of the Korean nation's pride and happiness in having President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il and enjoying good luck, to be enthusiastically applauded by the audience.

The festival continues.

Acrobatic Acts Featured

SK1204102194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang Circus Theatre in Kwangbok Street of the capital city is drawing a capacity audience every day with the show given by acrobats from many countries in the current 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

The festival involves many well-known and talented acrobats including international circus festival prize winners.

"Aerial plastic stunt" performed by Russian acrobats, which had carried off a prize at an international circus festival in France, is acclaimed for the successful aerial performance of movements requiring courage and high technique.

The Bulgarian acrobats in "pole balancing" demonstrate skillful movements such as feats on a pole standing on the forehead and midair backward somersault. Their "aerial flight on trapezes" also deeply impresses the audience.

The acrobats from China in all pieces fully show their skill, unique technique and distinguished stunts. "The wedding day of a girl" delights the audience with its comic scene.

The audience is enchanted by "mixed plastic trio," a world-famous acrobatic piece which had been awarded the grand prix at an art festival in Cuba and the Silver Lion Prize at the national circus festival. The acrobats present thrilling scenes by standing on their hands with bowls piled on their heads and soles of their feet.

An Egyptian acrobat, an international circus festival prize winner, shows quick and nimble movements in spear revolving and Mongolian acrobats successfully perform "hand feats".

The "plastic trio" performed by three brothers from Morocco, prize winners at several festivals, displays difficult and complex movements on a low disc to be acclaimed by the audience.

'Evening of Working People' Held 9 Apr

SK1004095794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0859 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 10 (KCNA)—An evening of working people on Pyongyang was held at the Kim Il-song Square Saturday to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's election as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The evening was overflowing with deepest respect and reverence for General Kim Chong-il, supreme commander, always leading the Korean people and People's Army to victory, exalting the dignity and honour of the fatherland and nation with his rare military wisdom and prominent commanding art. The evening was a sea of beautiful flowers and dances.

With a solemn chorus of the song "We Will Win Because You Are Leading Us" all the participants of the evening sang and danced, renewing the faith that they are afraid of no formidable enemy and will certainly win as long as they are guided by General Kim Chong-il possessed of outstanding military wisdom and matchless grit.

International Cultural Hall Dedicated

SK1104020594

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 2200 GMT on 8 April carries a two-minute report on the dedication ceremony at the Pyongyang International Cultural Hall held yesterday [8 April] in Pyongyang.

Citing the scene of the dedication ceremony, including slogans placed at the ceremony site, the report states that "the ceremony was attended by Chang Chol, vice premier and minister of culture and art; Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Pyongyang City Administrative and Economic Committee; functionaries concerned, including (Chin Yong-kuk), director of the General Bureau of Overseas Compatriots Reception [haeoe tongpo yongjop chongguk]; and artists in the city."

The report adds that "the ceremony was also attended by Choe Yong-sik, president of the Association of Korean Industrialists Residing in Japan, and his party who are staying in the socialist fatherland; and the delegation and art troupe of the overseas compatriots."

The report cites the speech by Vice Premier Chang Chol at the ceremony who extols Choe Yong-chin and Choe Yong-sik, brothers who are Korean industrialists in Japan, for their patriotism of donating funds for building the hall.

National Photo Exhibition Opens in Pyongyang

SK0904054294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—A national photo exhibition opened at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang Friday to celebrate the 15th of April.

On display there are about 80 pictures showing the deep respect and reverence of the Korean people and the world's progressive people for President Kim Il-song. Among them are the pictures "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Acknowledging the Cheers of Participants in the Military Parade and One Million Strong Civilian Demonstration Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War" and "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song on a Foreign Trip Receives a Bouquet Carrying the Best Wishes for His Longevity".

Chang-Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council and minister of culture and art, addressed the opening ceremony.

Forestry Ministry Issues Statement on Loggers

SK0904105294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 9 Apr 94

["Statement of DPRK Forestry Ministry Spokesman"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities dared to mock at the human rights of the workers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea now engaged in a regular felling in the far eastern region of Russia, volubly talking about "dispatch of a fact-finding team" and "defection operation", said a spokesman for the Ministry of Forestry of the DPRK in a statement today.

He condemned this as another premeditated act of treachery to expand overseas the present-day North-South confrontation which they have carried into extremes and thereby create a more serious national antagonism and impair the ever growing prestige of the DPRK and the might of its singlehearted unity.

At "the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee of the National Assembly" on March 30 the South Korean authorities reportedly brought up the "human rights" of the DPRK's lumbermen and impudently blared that "a fact-finding team" would be sent to Russia. They went so far as to say that they would induce the DPRK's lumbermen to "defect" to South Korea, getting them recognized as "refugees" through the offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The statement says:

It is clear to anyone that such "human rights problem" as the South Korean authorities described has never existed and can never exist for our lumbermen.

Under our anthropocentric socialist system the human rights of the people from all walks of life are fully ensured legally and institutionally. Our lumbermen too are guaranteed a free and happy life like in the homeland, though they are working in an alien land. Each of them enjoys a true political life and adequate material and cultural life. They live a stable life, engaged in normal production activities pursuant to our labour law and the law of the Russian Federation.

This notwithstanding, the South Korean ruling quarters are insolent enough to mock at and provoke the dignity and human rights of our workers. This impudent behavior is a shameless interference in the internal affairs of our republic and a criminal act that cannot be permitted under the international law.

Unjustifiable and unpardonable is the insidious attempt of the South Korean authorities to create a new national discord and aggravate the North-South confrontation by inventing the "human rights problem" of our lumbermen at a time when the national concord must be promoted by transcending the difference in idea, ideology and system and an independent and peaceful reunification of the country be accelerated through the great unity of the whole nation.

If the South Korean authorities send "a fact-finding team" to do harm to our workers who are engaged in creative production activities in an alien land for the socialist motherland, or launch into an unjustifiable "defection work" among them, we will decisively counter it.

And we will never tolerate any country or international organization joining the South Korean authorities in their criminal intrigues.

Should any other country or international organization join the South Korean authorities in their reckless act, it would extremely complicate things and entail irretrievable, grave consequences would. [sentence as received]

In case some of our lumbermen now in the far eastern region should disappear in the days ahead, we will consider that the responsibility entirely rests with the South Korean authorities and that they kidnapped our workers, motivated by their sinister political purpose, and will immediately take a decisive countermeasure.

Agricultural Union Propaganda Officials Meet

SK1104035594

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 2300 GMT on 9 April carries a brief report on a national meeting of propaganda functionaries of the Agricultural Workers Union [AWU] held in Pyongyang on 8 and 9 April.

The report says that the meeting was attended by functionaries concerned, including Choe Song-suk, chairman of the AWU Central Committee, and model AWU propaganda functionaries from across the country.

The report says that the meeting "discussed AWU propaganda functionaries' task in accelerating the chuche socialist cause."

The report adds that "following a report by Yi So-yong, vice chairman of the AWU Central Committee, discussions were held" and that the meeting adopted a letter of pledge to Kim Chong-il.

Spring Tree-Planting Season Under Way

SK1104102994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—Spring tree-planting is in full swing throughout the country.

According to data available at the Forestry Management Department of the General Bureau of the Land Administration, nearly 200 million trees were planted across the country in recent 20 days.

Many counties of South Hwanghae Province and Kaesong and Nampo municipalities have already fulfilled their plans for spring tree-planting.

Korea has set the target to create 200,000 hectares of respective forests of oil-bearing trees and industrial trees in a few years and channelled big efforts to the work.

April, a good season for tree planting, was set as a tree-planting month and trees are planted through a social movement.

The nation's forests have been assigned to organs, enterprises and organizations and protected and managed by them with much care.

Afforestation in cities is being pushed ahead.

In recent years alone, thousands of hectares of forests have been created and a number of parks and recreation grounds built in major industrial and residential quarters.

In Pyongyang, more than 250,000 trees have already been planted in streets, residential quarters, parks and recreation grounds this year.

South Korea

PRC Urged To Persuade DPRK on Nuclear Issue

SK1204062994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0601 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—Ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) chief policy-maker Yi Se-ki met Wu Xueqian, visiting vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Tuesday to discuss the North Korean nuclear matter.

Rep. Yi expressed concern that if the problem is not resolved, there will be louder calls for the South to go nuclear as well, prompting Japan to do the same and leading to unbridled nuclear competition.

"This is what both Korea and China do not want," he said, tactfully urging Beijing to be more aggressive in persuading Pyongyang to halt its suspected nuclear arms program.

Wu, former deputy premier and foreign minister, explained that China wishes to see peace and security maintained on the Korean peninsula. "Although China's role is limited, we will continue our efforts to persuade North Korea," he said.

PRC on Opposition to DPRK Nuclear Development

SK1204073794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0728 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—Wu Xueqian, visiting vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said Tuesday he believed that North Korea could not develop nuclear weapons even if it wanted to because of Chinese people's opposition.

The senior Chinese official said there would be no nuclear war nor armaments on the Korean peninsula at a lunch meeting with National Assembly Speaker Yi Man-sop.

"China is strongly opposed to it (North Korea's nuclear weapons development)," he was quoted as saying. He stressed a peaceful solution to the problem while acknowledging the difficulties ahead.

Speaker Yi, saying China's growing economy would be affected if war erupted on the Korean peninsula, reiterated Seoul's call for Beijing to play a greater role in persuading Pyongyang to give up its nuclear program.

Wu was invited to a dinner banquet later by ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil to meet more DLP members.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Russia Via Tokyo

OW1204061094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0602 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 12 KYODO—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu flew to Tokyo on Tuesday [12 April] on his way for a weeklong visit to Russia, Britain and Belgium, government officials said.

During a stopover in Tokyo, Han will meet Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to discuss North Korea's refusal to grant inspectors unhampered access to its nuclear facilities.

The IAEA has said two weeks of inspections in March were insufficient to decide whether Pyongyang has diverted nuclear materials for weapons purposes as alleged by the United States and other Western nations.

North Korea says it has fully complied with inspection criteria previously agreed upon and maintains its nuclear program serves strictly civilian purposes.

The nuclear row will top Han's agenda in Moscow, where he will meet Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and other government leaders from Wednesday through Friday.

"I expect Moscow to bring up its earlier proposal for an eight- way conference on the North Korean nuclear issue and I will explain Seoul's position," YONHAP News Agency quoted Han as saying before departure.

Moscow has suggested that both Koreas, China, the U.S., Russia, Japan, the United Nations and the IAEA try to resolve the nuclear controversy through a special conference.

According to YONHAP, Han said Seoul welcomes the Russian proposal but prefers that the UN handles the North Korean issue for the time being.

Han is scheduled to meet British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in London on Saturday and will return to Seoul next Monday after attending a two-day conference of South Korean mission chiefs in Brussels.

Meets With IAEA Head Hans Blix

SK1204131694 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1231 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu met with Hans Blix, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], in Tokyo on 12 April. They shared the view that North Korea should allow an early additional inspection by the IAEA and again urged North Korea to allow inspections.

Minister Han, who arrived in Tokyo today on his way to Russia, urged the above during a one-hour talk with IAEA Director-General Hans Blix, who was visiting Japan.

Former Opposition Leader Favors DPRK Dialogue

SK0804024594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0204 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, chairman of the Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation, declaring that North Korea's nuclear program must be stopped at any cost, said Friday that a "package solution" and use of "the China card" are the only way.

"A military confrontation against reckless provocation by the North Korean hard-liners has to be avoided," Kim said in a prepared text for his lecture at Pusan University.

The package solution Kim was referring to has also been proposed by North Korea. It aims at resolving the nuclear dispute through an overall package deal with the United States calling for, among other things, normalization of relations between Washington and Pyongyang.

South Korea and the United States should not resume their joint military exercise "Team Spirit" as it would impede dialogue, Kim said.

Seoul will have to reconsider deploying Patriot missiles or purchasing other new military weapons, said the former leader of the opposition Democratic Party.

"Nuclear proliferation has to be stopped not only in North Korea but also in other countries," Kim said, adding that the United States, Russia, France, Britain and China must show their commitment to making the world free of nuclear weapons.

It isn't very persuasive for these big powers to oppose the possession of relatively cheap but hugely destructive nuclear bombs by smaller countries while they have their own nuclear weapons, Kim argued.

South and North Korea, the United States, Russia, Japan and China must undertake a serious study of security in Northeast Asia, including the matter of keeping the region nuclear free, Kim said.

Such a study would provide a means to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue as well as help maintain peace and stability in Northeast Asia, he added.

Government Urged To Review Nuclear Policy

SK1204061394 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 12 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] Members of the Advisory Committee of the ROK Foreign Ministry have urged the government to fully review its nuclear policy indicating that the third round of U.S.-North Korean high-level talks can be held only if the exchange of special envoys between the North and South is held. The government has so far made efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.

Members of the "Unification Subcommittee" under the Foreign Ministry Policy Advisory Committee—which includes scholars, journalists, and former Foreign Ministry authorities—held a behind-closed-doors meeting at the Foreign Ministry on 11 April with the presence of high-level Foreign Ministry officials, including Pak Su-kil, chairman of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security. They agreed that it is desirable not to link the exchange of special envoys with the third round of U.S.-North Korean high-level talks.

Participants in that meeting said: "The UN Security Council president's statement has called upon North Korea to accept additional nuclear inspections by early May, at the latest. Therefore, the government should not link the exchange of special envoys with the nuclear inspections in order to make North Korea accept the additional nuclear inspections by then.

Such recommendation by the Advisory Committee members has been made at a time when the ROK, the United States, and the International Atomic Energy Agency have made efforts to seek the multilateral plans to resolve the North Korean nuclear issues. Thus, it attracts the people's attention.

They said that "either U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry or U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had stated that diplomatic efforts to get North Korea to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities will last another six months," and that "there are some signs of change in the U.S. position toward North Korea."

They have pointed out that there are differences in opinions between the ROK and U.S. Governments regarding the North Korean nuclear issue. They also stressed that the government should comprehensively review its nuclear policy toward North Korea and formulate concrete plans to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.

Furthermore, some participants said that the government should not be restricted by time during nuclear negotiations with North Korea, and that it should be patient in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue, while properly using both a hardline and moderate policy.

Kim Tae-chung Urges 'Soft Policy' on DPRK

SK0904032694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Taegu, April 9 (YONHAP)—Former opposition leader Kim Tae-chung said Saturday that hard-liners in Seoul, Pyongyang and Washington are hampering solution of the North Korean nuclear dispute.

Kim, chairman of the Kim Tae-chung Peace Foundation for the Asia- Pacific Region, told nearly 150 supporters here that the government should adopt a soft policy toward North Korea in order to bring about change.

"The Cold War age is over and the conditions causing division of the Korean peninsula have disappeared. So if South and North Korea continue their exhausting competition, both will turn into third- rate countries," he warned.

Kim called on the government to solve the nuclear problem through a "package deal," under which Western countries would recognize the Pyongyang Government while North Korea gave up nuclear weapons. In doing so, the government should secure the cooperation of China, he said.

"North Korea will eventually abandon nuclear weapons and the United States will establish an embassy in Pyongyang," he predicted.

This was Kim's first visit to Taegu since he was defeated in the presidential election in December 1992.

Seoul Rejects DPRK's Liaison Contact Proposal

SK1204090194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0854 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea turned down Tuesday a North Korean proposal to take delivery of a letter, rebuffing the suggestion as "turning the other way from the normal inter-Korean dialogue channel" and "of no help to improving relations."

Yi Chun-ku, Seoul's liaison officer, phoned his Pyongyang counterpart Yi Song-tok to say that South Korea will not accept the letter.

Pyongyang had notified Seoul Monday that it wanted to deliver a letter Wednesday addressed to the South Korean Government, political parties, social organizations and individuals.

Officials here said the letter is believed to ask Southern figures to participate in a conference on Aug. 15, the 49th anniversary of Korean liberation from Japanese colonial rule, of party and social leaders on ending national division.

Unification Board Spokesman Kim Hyong-ki issued a statement accusing North Korea of attempting yet "another tactic on the unification front."

"Stop political propaganda which only stirs up distrust and confrontation among the people," the statement said.

Kim urged North Korea to realize the mood of the international community and accept nuclear inspections and resumption of inter- Korean dialogue.

Research Institute Conducts Poll on DPRK

SK1104075394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0650 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 11 (YONHAP)—More than half of South Korean adults do not think that North Korea will actually provoke a war against the South, a poll said Monday.

The poll by the state-run Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification showed 54.1 percent of the respondents were not worried that North Korea would start a war, with 13.8 percent saying it was impossible and 40.3 percent highly unlikely.

But 45.5 percent of the pollees had a negative opinion: Very probable (6.8 percent) or relatively probable (38.7 percent).

The advisory council commissioned the Hyundae Research Institute to survey 1,000 adult men and women across the nation, selected using the probability proportionate to size sampling (PTS) method, from March 28 to April 2.

Some 80.3 percent foresaw the need for military preparations—very appropriate measures (46.5 percent) or inevitable (33.8 percent)—as far as deploying Patriot missiles here and resuming Team Spirit, the joint South Korean-U.S. military exercise, following the rupture of inter-Korean working-level talks.

Meanwhile, 58.7 percent of the respondents supported patience such as inter-Korean dialogue to resolve the nuclear problem, while 16 percent said hard-line countermeasures including military methods should be used.

And 38.8 percent thought the United Nations should urge North Korea to allow inspections of its nuclear sites through a Security Council presidential statement, while 28.8 percent favored U.N. sanctions.

On the effect of possible U.N. sanctions against North Korea, 39.6 percent said that "as a result, tension will be heightened on the Korean peninsula," while 25.3 percent said "North Korea will eventually accept further inspections."

Meanwhile, 75.6 percent felt that North Korea has already developed nuclear weapons or will produce them in two or three years, but only 18.3 percent said Pyongyang seems to have stopped developing nuclear arms.

Closure of DPRK Office in Macao Examined

SK1104035294 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 11 Apr 94 p 4

[Article by reporter Hwang Yu-song: "Closure of North Korea's Operational Office in Macao"]

[Text] Macao has been reportedly known as a base of North Korea's overseas activities. "Korea International Tourist Corporation in Macao" is the name of North Korea's such office in Macao. In the mid-seventies, North Korea opened it to attract foreign tourists to Pyongyang and to promote its trade with other countries. Many people have so far denounced, however, that this office has played a great role as a base of the North Korean intelligence organization's overseas activities in Southeast Asia without doing its own business, such as tourism and trade.

Recently this office was closed and stopped issuing visas for tourists to go to North Korea. It is, therefore, very significant.

On 30 March, a female clerk working in this office said to a person who visited there to apply for visa: "We no longer handle visa or consular business in Macao. If you want to apply for a visa, you should go to Beijing, China." She also said that "North Korean officials in the office had already left Macao for Beijing."

North Korea's past kidnapping of actress Choe Un-hui is a model case of its overseas operational activities through the office in Macao. Actress Choe was kidnapped by North Korean agents in Hong Kong in early 1978, then transferred to North Korea via its office in Macao.

The overseas activities of the North Korean Macao office reached the peak of its intelligence activity with the explosion of KAL [Korean Air] 858 by Kim Hyon-hui in 1987. Kim Hyon-hui studied Chinese language there, as well as received a training course to adapt herself to capitalist society from July 1985 to January 1987, immediately before the explosion of KAL 858 took place.

Since the incident by Kim Hyon-hui, the Macao Government has expelled some North Korean officials from Macao and kept an eye on the others who worked in the office because of the ROK Government's strong protest. As a result, since then, the office—which at one time had more than 30 employees—have reduced the number of its employees by ten. Also, the number of North Korean residents in Macao have decreased from 380 to 100 since the late 1980's.

It has not been disclosed why North Korea has closed down the office in Macao. It can be assessed, however, that North Korea could close the office under the following reasons: the reduction of its value as a base for overseas intelligence activity, the rapid reduction of foreign tourists to North Korea through Macao since the North Korean nuclear issue has emerged, and the difficulties in maintaining the office as a result of its economic situation.

Progress in Trade Talks With U.S. Assessed

SK1204012494 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 10 Mar 94 p 6

[YONHAP from Washington]

[Text] Emotionally-charged mutual distrust has reportedly increased between the ROK and the United States as the ROK-U.S. trade conflict becomes more specified. Complaining that the ROK is speaking with a double tongue over the issue on implementing the Uruguay Round [UR] agreement, the United States picks quarrels with the ROK in each and every field, including autos, sausages, cod-jowls, and even carpet cleaners.

The government's dissatisfaction has become apparent as the United States, far from appreciating the extent of cooperation provided by the ROK Government for the UR agreement, continues only to step up pressure for market opening.

Emotional portions appeared between the ROK and the United States in the 16th meeting of the ROK-U.S. working-level trade committee held in Washington on 4-5 April to exert a negative influence upon the meeting. After the meeting, some U.S. participants openly complained, saying "Far from making progress, this meeting is a step back in negotiations."

A U.S. official who attended the Washington negotiations cited the sausage issue as an example of an emotionally-charged ROK-U.S. trade conflict. Pointing out the customs procedure as a major point of dispute, he stressed, "Although the sum in question may only amount to several million dollars, it is a firm policy of the United States that no matter how small the amount, it will straighten it out without fail. He also said that, considering the symbolic significance of the issue, the U.S. Trade Representative plans to resolve the sausage issue as soon as possible.

The cod-jowls issue is similar to the sausage issue. The U.S. official said that both sides held intense negotiations on the cod- jowls issue for over an hour and a half in the Washington talks. Stressing that the United States "is angry" with the ROK attitude toward negotiations, he complained, "There has been no progress in resolving this issue since it was first raised four years ago."

The emotionally-charged ROK-U.S. conflict is also reflected in negotiations on the auto issue, the focal point of U.S. pressure listed on its list of "unfair trade manners." Although the ROK Government has expressed its attitude that it will seek more specific methods to resolve the ROK-U.S. trade conflict at the upcoming UR ministerial talks, the United States seems unconvinced. The government's ill feeling against strong U.S. pressure is apparent.

Observers say that the ROK's clear expression of its basic policy in the recent Washington working-level negotiations paradoxically caused relevant U.S. officials to complain about negotiations regressing instead of making progress.

The U.S. side's abrupt complaint about the ROK's attitude in a recent meeting in Washington between ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung- chu and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor which caused a strain in the atmosphere of the meeting, may be seen as an expression of pent up emotions.

With the United States stepping up trade pressure with the principle of attaching primary importance to its own economy, the ROK is making every effort to voice its position in a manner quite different from that of the past. This is today's reality. However, amplified mutual distrust and emotional conflict caused by the ROK attitude will only burden us, the weaker side in trade relations with the United States.

Yi Ki-taek Expresses Intention To Visit U.S.

SK1104075494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0643 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 11 (YONHAP)—Yi Ki-taek, chairman of the main opposition Democratic Party, held back from officially announcing his plan to visit the United States at his party's Supreme Council Monday amid rising intra-party criticism of its timing.

Yi had been determined to report details of his schedule for a U.S. visit in a Supreme Council meeting Monday as a formal step before embarking on the trip.

The opposition leader, who has already postponed his departure originally scheduled for Sunday, however, expressed his intention to go ahead with the plan, saying, "If the domestic political situation worsened, it would be difficult for me to leave, but it is neither easy nor good to delay for the second time, or cancel, it."

"Even if I went there, I would come back in a hurry if the domestic situation warranted," Yi said, hinting that the visit is still on.

Meanwhile, sources close to Yi said he would leave for America on April 19 for a 13-day visit featuring a meeting with Vice President Al Gore, speeches at the National Press Club in Washington and the Asia Society in New York, and a tour of California's silicon valley.

Some members of the DP Supreme Council strongly opposed his departure, however, as the party is demanding a special session of the National Assembly to deal with a "national crisis."

The Democratic Party has launched a nationwide movement to oppose the Uruguay Round trade agreement and vowed not to ratify the accord at the National Assembly. It is also demanding a probe into the power struggle gripping the Chogye Buddhist order and alleged diversion of Buddhist slush funds into the political arena.

Ministry Announces U.S. Defense Secretary Visit

SK1204103794 Seoul YONHAP in English 1032 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry is scheduled to arrive in Seoul on the afternoon of April 17 for an official visit, the Defense Ministry reported Tuesday.

During his three-day stay in Seoul, Secretary Perry will pay a courtesy call on President Kim Yong-sam and confer with Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae on steps the two countries could take jointly to cope with the North Korean nuclear question.

Perry, who is coming to Korea via Hawaii, will also visit U.S. and South Korean military installations before leaving the country on the afternoon of next Tuesday.

U.S. Ambassador Laney Cited on UR Accord

SK1204023794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0221 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—U.S. Ambassador to Seoul James Laney complained Tuesday that South Korea is only playing up the negative side of the Uruguay Round [UR] trade accord, ignoring its positive effects. Laney also said the United States has no intention of using Section 301 of the Omnibus Trade Bill against South Korea. The recent resurrection of the "Super 301" provision was aimed at Japan, he said. Washington will not apply Super 301 against Seoul since the U.S. trade deficit with South Korea is not as large as that with Japan, Laney added.

"The Uruguay Round means that world markets are open to Korea, not just that Korean markets are open to the world," Laney said in a speech to a breakfast meeting of leading industrial managers sponsored by the International Management Institute, an affiliate of the Federation of Korean Industries.

The most important open door for Korea, in fact, is the Uruguay Round, Laney said. "Yet I read in the papers... that the round is a loss for Korea—that countermeasures' have to be devised to limit the damage imposed from abroad," notably the United States, he said. Under the Uruguay Round, however, Korea does not have to climb high tariff walls in other countries, he said. Korean products, which are excellent, will compete even more effectively in the world market.

The Uruguay Round hasn't sounded the death knell for farming in Korea, Laney insisted. The farming population has already declined 50 percent in one generation. "That's not something the United States has forced upon Korea. It's already been happening for 30 years." Open markets mean more investment and more technology for Korea, Laney went on. Korea is already one of the world's largest beneficiaries of free trade, and will continue to reap gains in the future. The ambassador said, "trade and openness mean that Korea has come of age. Korea is no longer weak and poor. It is one of the 15 largest economies in the world—larger than most of the countries in Europe."

The United States is proud of its relationship with Korea, proud of its military and commercial alliance, Laney said. "But we are not in alliance to exploit each other, to take unfair advantage, but to find ways that we can grow together in more prosperous freedom."

Opposition Launches Offensive Over UR Accord

SK0804123294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0809 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP)—The opposition launched an offensive Friday against the government over the Uruguay Round [UR] accord, which will open up Korea's farm market, as the Morocco signing of the agreement fast approaches.

The main opposition Democratic Party (DP) set in motion a "struggle committee," aimed at stopping parliament from ratifying the Uruguay Round (UR) accord, at a ceremony attended by Chairman Yi Ki-taek and 100 postholders and lawmakers.

Chairman Yi, who also steers the committee, said the party must struggle for the national interest because dialogue has not helped in redressing the problem.

The DP also agreed with the three splinter parties and the pan- national movement to preserve agriculture, in a meeting held Friday morning, to hold rallies against the UR agreement in Seoul and other major cities over the weekend.

At the meeting DP Chairman Yi, United People's Party leader Han Yong-su, New Korea Party representative Yi Chong-chan, New Political Reform Party leader Pak Chan-chong and movement representative Yi Chang-pok decided to demand that President Kim Yong-sam apologize to the nation for government wrongdoings in the course of negotiating the UR pact, while guaranteeing the right of ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) lawmakers to express their opinions on the trade accord.

According to the movement, all 112 opposition lawmakers had pledged to vote against the UR pact and some DLP lawmakers expressed their intention to follow suit as of Friday.

Prof. Chang Won-suk of Tankuk University, one of the movement's leaders, said it will press the government to renegotiate the accord. Although it is a multilateral pact, its "unfair contents" should be renegotiated through bilateral talks, he added.

Some 180 colleges and universities of Hanchongnyon (the Federation of Korean College and University Student Associations) began a two-day strike Friday to oppose the UR agreement, while 20,000 students took to the streets of Seoul to denounce the pact.

After the accord is signed at the Morocco meeting, the DP will hold its own rallies to oppose parliamentary ratification while launching a nationwide signature-collection campaign.

Concerned that the anti-UR struggle by opposition forces could plunge the nation into a political crisis, the government and the ruling DLP are busy taking countersteps.

DLP spokesman Ha Sun-pong warned the DP would earn public censure for a struggle that could lead to political unrest just as the nation is starting to enjoy political and social stability under the civilian government.

The DLP plans to obtain National Assembly approval of the UR accord by the end of August and promote the need for the pact in this era of internationalization and market opening.

The government will advance the announcement of a wide-ranging rural investment plan from the target date of June 30 to assure farmers that the UR agreement is a good opportunity to make agriculture truly viable.

A Chongwadae [presidential office] official said the government would deal with all anti-UR pact rallies and demonstrations strictly in accordance with the law.

To cope with rallies and demonstrations by activist students in Seoul at the weekend, over 16,000 riot policemen have been deployed to ensure that these events are carried out in a peaceful manner.

Trade Minister on 'Firm Will' To Join WTO

SK1104011594 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 10 Apr 94 p 9

[By reporter Yu Sok-ki in Seoul]

[Text] Kim Chol-su, minister of trade, industry, and energy, said on 9 April that "Uruguay Round [UR] negotiations had been already finished," and that "it is almost impossible to renegotiate the UR accord."

In his roundtable talks with reporters that day, Minister Kim said that "after its ratification at the National Assembly, the government will sign an agreement on the formation of the World Trade Organization [WTO] during the nation-ministerial conference in Marrakesh," and that "this is not related to UR renegotiation but rather a matter of domestic procedures of ratification."

Minister Kim said: Every country has its own policy different from that of others regarding the signing of the World Trade Organization agreement. Therefore, the government has so far prudently calculated the loss and gain of the agreement during the meetings of related ministers. As a result, it has boldly decided to sign the agreement after its ratification at the National Assembly.

He said, however, that "regardless of the change of the signing form of the agreement, the government will officially participate in the World Trade Organization system, an order of international trade," and that"it is the government's firm will."

He added that "the ROK, which has so far achieved economic development through free trade, must not be isolated from the international community because of its failure to participate in the World Trade Organization," and that "it would never be a good choice if the government brings international isolationism on itself."

Minister Promises To Abide by UR Negotiations

SK1204055794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0532 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Marrekesh, Morocco, April 12 (YONHAP)—Foreign and trade ministers from 125 countries applauded the opening of the Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC) meeting in the 11th century Moroccan city of Marrakech Tuesday to officially sign a new world trade accord.

The general agreement on tariffs and trade's seven-year multilateral trade round, which set sail in the Uruguayan beach resort of Punta del Este in 1986, was finalized last December and will be signed by all member countries on Friday.

Moroccan Prince Sidi Mohamed welcomed participants, TNC Ministerial Chairman and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu Bonilla opened the conference, and GATT Secretary-general Peter Sutherland looked back on the long and hard journey to the final ceremony.

South Korean Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su, the 14th representative to address the floor, voiced the same enthusiasm as his counterparts and pledged his country's commitment to implement the agreement fully.

Korea will sign the final act, promising to abide by the results of the UR [Uruguay Round] negotiations, but will hold off on inking the mandate for the World Trade Organization (WTO), GATT's successor, until domestic ratification. It will, however, initial the new government procurement agreement, an annex to the WTO package.

There is no deadline to sign the WTO accord although countries must finish the ratification process within two years after the treaty takes effect in order to join the new global organization. "All parties have shown the needed political will to make the round a considerable achievement. Some may have gained more than others, and some might be affected more than others. We know, however, that all parties are winners in both the economic and the political sense," Kim said.

Asserting that all parties will benefit enormously from the new agreement in the long run, Kim reminded that Korea has participated in the round from the beginning. "I would like to emphasize that my government has made extremely difficult decisions, particularly with respect to agricultural liberalization... Korea is now undergoing wide-ranging structural adjustment in the agricultural sector, which, you can well imagine, is far from being a simple and easy undertaking," he said.

Pointing out that the UR agreement has substantially strengthened the principle of multilateralism, he urged all members to complete the necessary domestic procedures soon. Kim then voiced concern over the non-multilateral approaches taken by some members, which could undermine the recent multilateral achievements and jeopardize the viability of the new world organization, taking a shot at Washington for its reauthorization of Super 301. All parties should abide by the new rules, and bring any trade cases to a multilateral forum instead of handling them bilaterally or resorting to unilateral action, he said. In the same vein, he expressed concern about the trend toward exclusive trading blocs.

In approaching the future work of the WTO such as identifying the relationship among trade, environmental and labor measures, Kim advised a balanced view respecting the concerns of developing countries. Recognizing the sharp differences of interest between developed and developing countries, he said that Korea, a newly industrializing country facing the problems of both, could help to resolve any potential conflicts. "I would hope that Korea would play a facilitating role in addressing the content of the agenda and parameters for discussion under the new WTO regime," he said.

Assembly Committee Cancels Loggers Survey Team

SK1204120994 Seoul YONHAP in English 1150 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee has in effect cancelled a plan to send a fact-finding team to Russia to look into the human rights conditions of North Korean loggers in Siberia.

The committee initially planned to send four of its legislators to Moscow and Khabarovsk to observe loggers' conditions before a special assembly sitting opens in May.

"The dispatch of a fact-finding team is not always needed in determining the conditions of North Korean loggers there," Kang Sin- che, chairman of the committee's ad hoc committee on North Korean loggers, said on Tuesday.

He said Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu visits Moscow in the immediate future and there have been other frequent contacts between the two countries over the diplomatic channel.

Kang said he was withholding the dispatch. But, the plan seems to have been scrapped altogether.

"At the moment, we have no plan to send a survey team to Russia," an official of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee said.

Japan Said Ahead in Receiving Shipping Orders

SK0804010194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0036 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea, which won the most shipping orders in 1993, has been supplanted by Japan this year, the Korea Shipbuilders' Association (KSA) said Friday.

Korea received shipping orders worth 339,000 tons in January-February and 672,000 tons in March to total 33 vessels, or 1.01 million tons in the first quarter of the year, 97 percent of the 1.04 million tons recorded a year earlier.

Japan, on the other hand, won orders for 43 vessels, or 1.92 million tons in January-February.

Considering it landed almost all large ship orders in March, Japan received nearly three times as many orders as Korea.

There is little profitability in Korea's workload as each ship averages 30,600 tons, far below last year's 43,900 tons and Japan's 44,900 tons.

Due to low-priced offers by the Japanese industry, international ship prices slumped from 20 percent to 30 percent this year from recent years.

Korean shipbuilders therefore tend to bid for small ships and leave the riskier and bigger vessels to their Japanese rivals, KSA officials said.

The double-hull very large crude carrier (VLCC) that cost 100 million dollars two years ago now sells for 85 million dollars, prompting Korean companies to avoid bidding for large ships, the officials said.

Chinese Fishermen Rescued Off Cheju Island

SK1204021094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0202 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Cheju, April 12 (YONHAP)—The maritime police on Tuesday rescued eight crew members from a stranded Chinese fishing boat off the southwestern part of Cheju island, the Cheju Maritime Police said.

The maritime police said lifeboats were sent to waters off Mosulpo, Namcheju-kun, Cheju-do, around 8 A.M. to rescue Chinese fishermen from the vessel "Luyu 107," which ran aground earlier in the morning, the police said.

According to the police, the 80-ton fishing boat registered with Weihai City, Shandong Province, China, was swept away by high waves earlier in the morning while seeking a safe harbor in bad weather. Three of the 11 fishermen on the Luyu 107 had already swum to the port of Mosulpo, the police said.

Ministry, SRV Discuss Double-Tax Avoidance

SK1104061994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0536 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 11 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Vietnam held a second round of working-level meetings to discuss signing a pact on double taxation avoidance at the Finance Ministry here Monday.

At the meetings to end on Friday, Seoul will seek ways to support Korean companies' advancement into Vietnam and to prevent them from being discriminated against.

Tax rates at the source of income, conditions for fixed work sites and guarantees on equal tax treatment for domestic and foreign nationals are also on the agenda.

Posco Building Steel Rolling Mill in Vietnam

SK0804040394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Hai Phong, Vietnam, April 8 (YONHAP)—Ground was broken Friday for a steel rolling mill here with an annual production capacity of 200,000 tons of steel bars in a joint venture between Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (Posco) and Vietnam Steel Corp. (VSC) at a cost of 56 million U.S. dollars.

Attending the ground-breaking ceremony were Posco President Kim Chong-chin, Vietnamese Heavy Industries Minister Tran Lum and VSC chairman Ngo Huy Phan.

The 18,000-pyong (59,400-square-meter) VPS (VSC-Posco steel), due to be completed by September next year, will produce 70,000 tons of rebar, 70,000 tons of round bars and 60,000 tons of wire rods.

Posco and its affiliate Keoyang Co. hold respective 45 percent and 5 percent stakes in the company with 34 percent and 16 percent holdings by VSC and the Hai Phong People's Council (HPC).

Posco has run a joint-venture factory called "Posvina" with an annual output capacity of 30,000 tons of corrugated steel sheet since April 1992 in Ho Chi Minh City, and is almost finished with work on a pipe mill with an annual capacity of 30,000 tons in Hai Phong.

Korea's steel-making reached 33 million tons last year, compared with Vietnam's 210,000 tons, and the Vietnamese Government hopes to boost the industry as a major state project by joining up with Posco.

Due to increased steel demand brought by various infrastructure programs, Vietnam imported more than 60 percent of its steel bars—67 percent of its steel imports.

Encouraged by various joint ventures with Vietnam, Posco plans to advance into other Southeast Asian countries like Myanmar and Malaysia.

UN Anniversary Preparation Committee Launched

SK0804020394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0129 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP)—A committee was launched here Friday to prepare celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

Former diplomat Kim Kyong-won was named chairman of the "Republic of Korea committee for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations" comprised of 88 members from the academic, media, business, women's and cultural sectors to prepare commemorative events for the world body's birthday.

Party Floor Leaders Gain No Agreement 12 Apr

SK1204073194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0650 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—Floor leaders at the National Assembly could not agree Tuesday on convening an extraordinary session to discuss holding a public hearing on the Uruguay Round trade accord and other pending issues.

The leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the main opposition Democratic Party [DP], however, did decide to meet again Wednesday.

In addition to the Uruguay Round, the Democratic Party wants to talk about invoking parliamentary rights to investigate the "three major suspicious affairs."

These affairs include an opposition allegation that a large slush fund created by a construction company for a buddhist temple may have flowed into the political sector, to be used by the ruling party during the 1992 presidential campaign.

The DP also wants to investigate the ongoing power struggle at the nation's largest buddhist sect, the Chogye order, and suspicions over political surveillance of the residence of former DP leader Kim Tae-chung.

As for the Uruguay Round, the Democratic Party has joined with student activists and farmers at "outdoor" rallies and demonstrations protesting the government's weak-kneed negotiating tactics at the round, which led to the opening of Korea's market to rice and other foreign farm products.

The opposition party has vowed to block ratification of the Uruguay Round accord unless the government renegotiates it.

But sensing a lukewarm public response and drawing sharp criticism from the ruling party, the DP appeared to agree Friday to bring the Uruguay Round issue "indoors" and discuss it at the National Assembly.

After Tuesday's meeting, DP Floor Leader Kim Tae-sik indicated that talks with his DLP counterpart, Rep. Yi Han-tong, had made some progress toward holding an extra session.

Kim said, "I shared the opinion with Rep. Yi that the National Assembly has to play a role in resolving all national issues. When it can't, the nation is left with only one way to go—toward a crisis."

Yi also acknowledged that he had "detailed talks" with Kim, but no conclusion was reached because his party had yet to set clear policy goals on all pending issues.

"But in any event, we agreed that the National Assembly should not proceed toward a dead-end," he said.

Yi is expected to consult with DLP Chairman Kim Chong-pil and Secretary-General Mun Chong-su Tuesday afternoon, then rejoin the opposition floor leader Wednesday morning to resume their discussion.

Yi hinted that the ruling party might go along with opposition moves to investigate pending issues, saying, "we will study their (opposition) proposals positively, depending on their attitude."

Ministries Instructed To Form Downsizing Plans

SK1204020294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang has instructed government ministries and agencies to complete their reorganization plans for "a small but efficient government" by the end of April, although it is unlikely that all will meet the deadline. As of Monday only nine, or 25 percent, of the 38 ministries and agencies subject to downsizing had completed their plans. Among them were the Foreign Ministry and five other ministries whose reorganization plans were approved by the cabinet on Monday.

The completed plans of the nine ministries and agencies call for a combined staff reduction of 301: Two by the prime minister's office, 15 by the Economic Planning Board, 52 by the Foreign Ministry, 33 by the Home Ministry, 43 by the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry, nine by the Health and Social Affairs Ministry, four by the Labor Ministry, 28 by the Government Administration Ministry and 115 by the Korean National Railroad.

Of the remaining 29 ministries and agencies, the Finance Ministry and 15 others have submitted their plans while the rest, including the Defense Ministry, have yet to do so. The National Unification Board, the Legislation Ministry, the National Statistical Office, the Patriots and Veterans Affairs Ministry, the Military Manpower Administration and the Korean Customs Administration have not yet prepared their plans, whereas the Environment Ministry, the National Tax Administration and the Korean Industrial Property Office submitted plans calling for a staff increase of 300 to 1,000 in spite of President Kim Yong-sam's streamlining policy.

A Government Administration Ministry official said examination of the plans submitted by the ministries and agencies takes time. "But we're pressing them to complete their plans by the end of the month," he added.

Foreign Ministry Modifies Structure; Cuts Jobs

SK1104093894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0819 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 11 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry has announced an internal reorganization, with 17 positions at the special grade 1 (vice minister-level) downgraded to lower levels and six divisions closed down.

The plan was approved by the cabinet as part of the government's overall strategy on streamlining.

Ministry officials said the restructuring does away with the controversial attempt to amend the Diplomat Employment Law, which initially envisioned changing the retirement age and lowering the limit in service years to rectify a promotion bottleneck.

The 17 special grade 1 positions will be demoted over the next three to five years. Five of the positions will be distributed to special grade 2, seven to grade 1 and another five to grade 2.

Officials said this finally reshapes the structure of the number of officials—from an urn to the ideal pyramid. The Ministry earlier planned to change its employment law to achieve this effect, but the move is no longer necessary since the reorganization will naturally lower the retirement age and service years.

The division reorganization affects Middle East Division I and II, which are being merged.

Africa Division I and II, Cultural Affairs Division I and II, Overseas Residents Division I and II, and Passport Division I and II are all being merged into single divisions.

The reduction, the officials noted, will change the past practice where nearly every employee served as division chief, a necessity before promotion to director-general.

Now there will be employees who bypass the division chief position, the officials said.

While shedding six divisions, the Ministry adds a new division on disarmament and atomic energy.

The new division falls under the supervision of the United Nations Bureau, which succeeds the current International Organizations Bureau.

The present Asian Affairs Bureau is being renamed the Asia- Pacific Affairs Bureau, while the Middle East and African Affairs Bureau will be called the Western Asia and African Affairs Bureau by taking over operations in Southeast Asia.

U.N. Division I, U.N. Division II and International Organization Division will be known as U.N. Policy Division, Human Rights Division and U.N. Economic Affairs Division.

Moving to strengthen its environment policy, the Ministry has separated the environment into an independent division from technology.

In addition, 12 attaches from eight other ministries were recalled to their headquarters, the officials said.

President Approves Personnel Changes in Military

SK1204081594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0801 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam approved military personnel changes explained Tuesday by Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae, a government official said.

With the president's approval, the Defense Ministry is scheduled to announce its regular personnel changes at the end of this week or early next week.

The government plans to remove private organizations in the military through the personnel changes this month, but no details were available.

A senior government official said, "Defense Minister Yi briefed President Kim on the changes, but I have no information on personnel management concerning the generals and field grade officers who were members of 'Hana-hoe.'"

Hana-hoe was a private Army organization that counted former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u among its members.

Another senior official said, "The overall feeling in the Army is that the personnel changes involving the Hana-hoe generals have not gone far enough. Most Army officers hope that all the Hana-hoe generals will be discharged or relieved of important posts."

President Consolidates Authority Over Military

942C0046A Seoul SIN TONG-A in Korean Dec 93 pp 224-237

[Text] At the video rental in the basement store of the public service center of the National Defense Ministry, Yongsan-ku, Seoul, the most popular videotape lately is "A Few Good Men." The title of the tape, they say, was derived from the advertising tagline to recruit Marines in the United States. Though three copies of the tape were imported last August, it is so popular among the soldiers serving at the National Defense Ministry that no one can borrow it without making a reservation. The significance of the tape is that young officers attack the faults committed by a commander stubbornly loyal to his fatherland. It may perhaps be natural that such a story interests the officers of this country.

Since the new government, the Korean military is realizing more changes and reforms than any other group. The military which endures the intense criticism of the people due to the dishonorable work done by some of their predecessors under presidents of the military cliques over the last thirty years, bears a burden to change into a military which will receive the people's love and confidence. In these days of reform, what position is the military taking? In the nine months of Kim Yong-sam government, how much reform of the military has been carried out and which way is it going? Is it really succeeding?

It is no exaggeration to say that the aim of the military reform by the new goverment is to remove the Hanahoe. Last 8 March, President Kim Yong-sam suddenly dismissed Kim Chin-yong, the Army Chief of the General Staff, and So Won-su, the Defense Security Commander. Last 18 October, he conducted the promotions of army corps and division commanders and of rear admiral and major general classes of the Navy and Air Force, as well as personnel changes of key positions in the National Defense Ministry. With this, his military reshuffle was finished.

In addition, President Kim carried out a second military reshuffle including the dismissal of Kim To-yun, the Defense Security Commander, and about 30 executive officers of brigadier general, colonel and lieutenant colonel classes, thus establishing a royal governing structure both in name and reality. With this, the military clique, which had lasted for thirteen years from the beginning of the 1980 Fifth Republic through the Sixth Republic, collapsed and a new military clique was formed.

Of the three- and four-star generals of the entire army, only five including General Kim Chae-chang (18th term graduate of the Military Academy; only the number of the term will be written hereinafter), Deputy Commander of the Combined Forces and Vice-Admiral Yim Chung-rin (16th term graduate of the Naval Academy) the Marine Corps Commandant, etc., were promoted by the former President No Tae-u at the end of last year. The rest of the generals were all promoted by President Kim with the regular personnel changes this fall. But all generals of Hanahoe, except for one, could not be promoted.

According to the Army authority, Hanahoe's members number about 120 and are 20th- to 36th-term graduates of the Military Academy. The only general still in active service and who is prior to the 20th term graduates is Kim Chae-chang.

From a list of generals published confidentially by the National Defense Ministry at the beginning of every year, the following members of Hanahoe were expunged for various reasons and registered on the list of veterans: Kim Chin-yong (Military Academy), Cho Nam-pung (18th term), Ku Chang-hoe (ex-Third Army Commander), So Wan-su (19th term, ex-Defense Security Commander), An Byong-ho (20th term, ex-Army Capital Garrison Commander), Yi Chung-sok (21st term, ex-Operation Department Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), So Chung-il (23d term, ex-21st Division Commander), etc.

Keeping Hanahoe at a distance was already somewhat expected when major class officers were promoted last August. At that time, twelve members of the Aljahoe who are 41st term graduates of the Military Academy were not even registered on the list of those eligible for promotion. So when lieutenant colonel and colonel class officers were promoted, 37th-term graduates of Aljahoe and 32d-term graduates of Hanahoe were excluded. Even when 43 officers were promoted to brigadier general, eight 27th-term and three 26th-term graduates of Hanahoe were excluded.

These are not all of Hanahoe's problems. Immediately after that, though four lieutenant generals (corps commanders) and 16 major generals (11 division commanders and 5 others) were promoted, none from Hanahoe could be promoted. In the personnel changes of generals, members of Hanahoe had to leave even their leisurely posts, not to mention the important posts. Nine lieutenants and major generals of Hanahoe were ordered to leave their posts and await discharge or were not assigned to any posts.

Three generals, Lieutenant General Kim Chung-hon (18th term) director of the Military Academy, Major General An Kwang-yol (20th term) director of the Installation Bureau of the National Defense Ministry, and Major General Choe Ki-hong (22d term) policy planning officer of the National Defense Ministry were ordered to leave their posts and wait for further action at the Headquarters of the Army. Lieutenant General Yi Taek-hyong (19th term) Strategy Planning Department chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Kim Sang-chun, Operation Department chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have also informally decided to leave their posts and wait for further action at the Headquarters of the Army. Lieutenant General Kim Chung-bae (20th term) Third Corps commander, Song Tok-son, 11th Corps commander, Major General Choe Seung-woo (21st term) chief of staff of the Education Headquarters, and Major General Yo Myong-hyon (21st term) chief of staff of the Second Army, four in all, were appointed to Policy Committees of the Army Headquarters. The posts of Policy Committees are leisurely ones that are given to officers expected to be discharged. Members of Hanahoe who took charge of main army divisions near the capital, including Major General Chong Chong-taek (23d term) Capital Mechanized Division commander, Son Su-tae, 30th Division commander, and Pak Yong-il, Third Division commander, were also transferred to less important posts of vice-corps commander seven months before the end of their two-year terms.

Now no one of Hanahoe has an important post in the Army. The chief secretary of the Army Chief of Staff, 30th and 33d Brigade commanders of the Capital Garrison Command, the Personnel Staff of the Army Headquarters, the key posts of the ranger-commando force and the Defense Security Command are filled with officers other than members of Hanahoe or graduates of the Military Academy.

Last 3 November for the first time after President Kim took office, Kim Tong-chin, the Army chief of the General Staff, had an exclusive talk with the president where it is said that he was given directions to "from next year, select and assign members of Hanahoe." But many people say that members of Hanahoe have suffered such unfavorable treatment that they could not make a comeback.

Various kinds of reactions came out from people inside and outside of the Army on the perfect purge of Hanahoe.

General A: "Hanahoe was a curse on our Army. For the unity and harmony of the Army, even its roots must be eradicated. You must bear in mind that members of Hanahoe survived the the Yun Pil-yong event carried out in the 12 December coup and the 17 May Kwangju event."

Colonel B: "I recognize the abuse of Hanahoe. But it is also wrong that even colonels and lieutenant colonels of the club are excluded in promotions, solely on the basis of being registered on the membership list of Hanahoe. After the 13 April 1987 Constitution protection measure, as instructed by Ko Myong-sung, the then Defense Security commander, many majors and lieutenant colonels became members of Hanahoe to protect the regime, regardless of their own will, didn't they?"

Lieutenant C: "I will, as a member of Hanahoe, willingly submit to such unfavorable treatment. It is, though, too unreasonable that only because seniors, juniors, and companions of mine are on good terms with Hanahoe members, they are looked upon coldly and treated unfavorably."

Reserve General D: "If the goverment wants to purge Hanahoe members, it should discharge them all at once from service or leave them alone. If it transfers them to leisurely posts a few months after it had assigned them to key posts, it will merely cause the Army to agitate. If the current of the times is like this, it should treat all members by the same standard and free them from dissatisfaction and uneasiness."

Who will be the new influential group to take over the posts of Hanahoe? Although the influential group to replace Hanahoe, which held the Army for ten years, hasn't formed yet, it is clear that one is rapidly forming.

In the process of forming a new military clique under the new government, another significant factor is the rapid collapse of the TK [Taegu North Kyongsang Province] group. Although five member of the TK group were promoted to brigadier generals this year as last year, not one of the group was included in the promotion of 16 major generals including 11 division commanders. The four generals promoted to corps commanders were all non-TK group—three from Seoul and one from South Kyongsang Province.

After the new government began, the TK group collapsed. Instead officers from Pusan and South Kyongsang Province (PK), the areas producing the most members of the influential group, rose remarkably to the surface. Of the promoted brigadier generals, 14 are from PK—12 from South Kyongsang Province and two from Pusan—four more than last year. Of the promoted lieutenant generals, Yi Yu-so (20th term) 7th Corps commander is from Kyongnam High School of Pusan. Of the promoted major generals, Kim Pan-kyu (24th term) 55th Division Commander and Cho Yong-rae (177th-term graduate of the military officer training center) Third Division commander, are from South Kyongsang Province. Kim Hui-sang (24th term) newly appointed Capital Mechanized Division commander is from Kojang, South Kyongsang Province, the same place as Chong Chung-wuk, Secretary of Diplomacy and Security of the Blue House. Rear Admiral Chun To-bong (35th-term graduate of the Naval Officer Training Center) deputy chief of Personnel Staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Admiral Kim Mu-Ung (21st-term graduate of the Naval Academy) are also from PK. Because Major General Kim Pan-kyu and Brigadier

General Sin Hye-kwon are from Koje Island, the native place of President Kim, they attract more public attention. Moreover, it is believed that because Major General Kim was President Kim's junior in Kyongnam High School and Brigadier General Sin was the Operations Staff of Corps exercising the jurisdiction over Koje Island, this would have favorably affected their promotions.

The fact that PK has not only risen significantly in numbers but also holds important posts has attracted public attention. Brigadier General Yim Chae-mun (3d-term ROTC graduate, the promotion to a major general is expected next 1 January), unexpectedly appointed to the post of Defense Security Command last 21 October, is from Hamyang, South Kyongsang Province, and ex-Sixth Division Commander Han Sung-ui (22d term) recently appointed to the post of policy planning officer of the National Defense Ministry, who graduated from Pusan High School, is from Sanjong, South Kyongsang Province.

Another distinctive feature of the last personnel changes is that large numbers of graduates of Kyongbok High School of Seoul are taking posts in the Army and the new government.

As the graduates of the Kyongbok High School including Kim Tong-chin, the Army chief of the General Staff went up into higher classes, the Blue House and those close to the President might have exercised their influence over the promotions. Persons well informed of the military believe Mr. K., a younger person graduated from Kyongbok High School, who is known to serve near the president and has an important effect upon the personnel changes in the government, and Minister K, etc., would have exercised directly or indirectly their influence over the last military personnel changes.

Of the Kyongbok High School graduates, there are Kim Hoe-sang, ex-national defense secretary of the Blue House and Hong Sun-ho (4th-term ROTC graduate, ex-chief of planning security of the Army Headquarters) Fifth-Division commander and President Kim's junior in the philosophy department of Seoul University. Chang Chong-kil (21st-term graduate of the Naval Academy) ex-Fifth Battle Corps commander of the Navy, and Choe Yong-hwan (15th-term graduate of the Air Force Academy) Tenth Battle Flying Corps commander of the Air Force are also graduates of the same school.

It is said that Minister K, an influential person in the government, widely associates with all sorts and classes of people and also has a wide acquaintance in the military from which to collect information. It is said that he put forth his opinion on the military personnel changes to President Kim. Considering these facts, the current influential persons in Korea's new military world are mainly from Pusan and South Kyongsang Province regions and graduates of Kyongbok High School.

A remarkable point is that not as many graduates of Kyongnam High School, President Kim's old school, have been appointed to important posts as other school graduates. It is known that of the Kyongnam High School graduates, there is actually no general higher than three stars in active service. Although General Ku Chang-hoe, the Third Army Commander, was in active service up until the beginning of this year, he was discharged from service last April. Brigadier General Yi Hyang-su (21st term, Intelligence School Director) and Brigadier General Kim Sang-yol (discharge expected next January) are in active service, but both were excluded in the promotion to major generals. Besides Major General Chon Sang-bae (22d term, chief of Intelligence Staff of the Army Headquarters), Major General An Song-yong (23d term, 17th Division commander), Major General Kim Pan-kyu (24th term) who was appointed to the post of division commander recently, Brigadier General Pak No-sok (24th term) chief secretary of the Army Chief of the General Staff and Brigadier General Pak Man-taek (26th term) are all graduates of Kyongnam High School. None of the Kyongnam High School graduates of the 25th through 27th terms of the Military Academy are in active service. In the Marine Corps, there is Rear Admiral Chon Te-bong.

A field grade officer, a graduate of Kyongnam High School, said, "This is the case because Kyongnam High School graduates mainly entered the medical and business worlds, while many Pusan High School graduates launched into the bureaucratic world. Even if Kyongnam High School graduates did join the military world, they could not keep company with President Kim because of his long time association with the opposition party."

On the other hand, Pusan and Kyongbuk High Schools produced large numbers of influential persons during the Fifth and Sixth Republics. They include General Un Yong-nam, Third Army commander, Major General Han Sung-ui (22d term) newly appointed policy planning officer of the National Defense Ministry, and Major General Yi Ui-se (22d term) national defense secretary of the National Security Planning Agency in the important posts. Since the new government was established, the power of Kyongbuk High School graduates is diminishing. So Wan-su, defense security commander, was already ruined. Major General Choe Ki-hong (22d term) was ordered to leave his post and wait for further action at Army Headquarters. Major Sin Chong (20th term) is in the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Major General Ku Tae-to (21st term) and Brigadier General Choe Tong-Chin (25th term, aide of the Minister) are in the National Defense Ministry. Brigadier General Chong Su-song (202d-term graduate of the Military Officer Training Center) is in the personnel staff of the Army Headquarters. These are all low-profile posts.

The Seoul High School graduates who once built up a large area of influence in the military also seem to have decreased in numbers as compared with the past. Lieutenant General Kim Chok (21st term) chief of the Operations Department of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who was appointed to the First Corps Commander this time, and Lieutenant General Kim Sang-chun (19th term) are both graduates of Seoul High School. Besides them, Yi Yon-rin, Chief of Planning and Management Office, and Yi Chung-hyong, first assistant minister, who hold the important posts in the National Defense Ministry as reserve officers, are also Seoul High School graduates.

On the other hand, graduates of Kyonggi High School are advancing by leaps and bounds. Among them are: To Il-kyu, Army Capital garrison commander, Yi Ho-sung, chief of planning staff of the Army Headquarters, Pak Yong-ok (21st term) expected military attache to the Korean Embassy in the United States, and Yi Sang-hui (26th term) who was promoted to a brigadier general this time and is serving in the Defense Secretary's office of the Blue House. And there are many graduates of Song-dong High School of Seoul who hold important posts. They are Yi Chong-nam (21st term) defense secretary of the Blue House, and Yi Sok-bok (21st term) deputy chief of staff of the Combined Forces, and Lieutenant General Yi Kyu-hwan who was appointed to the post of Third Corps commander. Of the graduates of Chaeil High School of Kwangju, there are Lieutenant General Kim Tong-sin, Captial Corps commander, Major General An Taek-sun in the Air Force, and Yi So-yong (20th term graduate of the Naval Academy) the First Fleet commander. Colonels Kim Chang-su and Kwon An-to were promoted to brigadier generals most recently, attracting public attention.

In the past, the influential military men held important posts in three commands: the Capital Garrison Command, the Defense Security Command, and Ranger Command. But after the civil government began, posts affecting politics tend to be regarded with great importance. With the conception of important posts changing, the military men being trusted by the ministers or the Blue House are holding such posts. The chief of the personnel staff of the Army Headquarters who in the past exercised his enormous influence over personnel changes is also now less popular, military men estimate. Some say that receiving enormous bribes in connection with military construction while in office as Seventh Division Commander, Yim Chong-sop's (22d term, chief of personnel staff) actions contributed to the decline in the post's popularity. Accordingly, the important posts in the military are said to be the Policy Office chief and policy planning officer of the National Defense Ministy, the national defense secretary of the Blue House and minister aides, etc.

In less than one year after being transferred to the post of First Corps commander after serving as policy planning officer, General Cho Song-tae (20th term) returned to the post of Policy Office Chief of the National Defense Ministry. Graduated from Taejon Middle School and the high school attached to the Education College of Seoul, he had been selected by Yi Chong-ku, national defense minister to be policy planning officer. He is said to have carried out his duties so well as to please the then Vice-Minister Kwon Yong-hae.

As Major General Choe Ki-hong had been dismissed from the post of policy planning officer by reason of his membership in Hanahoe, his classmate Han Sung-ui, Sixth Division commander, was appointed to the post. Han Sung-ui who is from Sanchong, South Kyongsang Province, and graduated from Pusan High School, served as a professor of English at the Military Academy and had been with the Combined Forces Command.

It is the selection of Yi Chong-nam, the national defense secretary of the Blue House, that attracted the public eye more than any other personnel changes at this time. As an artillery man, Major General Yi Chong-nam did not distinguish himself and was passed up twice for promotion to brigadier general. After he served as an evaluation and management officer and operations coordination officer of the National Defense Ministry, he was promoted to a major general last year and was appointed to the post of the national defense secretary of the Blue House this time. In the middle of the 1970's when Chong Sung-hwa, ex-Army chief of the General Staff, served as a Third Corps commander and president of the Military Academy, Major General Yi served as his chief secretary.

A person in the political circles who is known to advise the president about military affairs since President Kim took office said, "President Kim sometimes says he owes General Chong Sung-hwa a great debt of gratitude. It is because General Chong made speeches of support for him during the 1987 presidential election campaign. Selecting Major General Yi could be said to be President Kim's way of repaying General Chong for his kindness."

Besides this reason, it was also a consideration that Major General Yi is the most informed about the Yulgok Program which amounts to about 30 percent of the entire national defense budget. In the past, the presidential security service chief discharged from military service generally advised the president about military affairs. But as the national defense secretary takes charge of such duties, this position might have been raised from a brigadier general to a major general rank in order to expand his range of authority.

The duties of the minister's aide are to assist the minister from 8 AM when the minister shows up at the office to 6 or 7 PM. The aide, who leads about 20 staff members including colonel-class officers in charge of administration, protocol and overseas, etc., must assist in even the slightest movement by the national defense minister, by being in touch at all times with the Blue House and the Army, Navy, and Air Force. There are even times when he should write a letter of resignation for the minister and then entreat him to withdraw the resignation. The aide should be able to handle such difficult problems well. Therefore, he, more than anyone, has to be in harmony with the minister.

Choe Tong-chin (25th term, brigadier general) a newly appointed aide is said to have conducted these duties well while in the office of the chief of staff of the Army

Capital Garrison Command. It appears that coming from the same hometown (Kyongju) as the minister has allowed him to enjoy his confidence.

Interference in the military personnel changes by the Blue House is no less than it has been in the past, according to persons well informed with the military. It is said that the Blue House gathers information about high-ranking generals through another channel, a search the Defense Security Command did in the past. Through the channel, which field-grade officers as well as generals use, various opinions on military affairs are transmitted to the Blue House, a source said.

It is said that Mr. P., an influential person of the Blue House, plays an important role in military affairs. Because his duties are to run errands for President Kim, his role could be said to be a natural one. But when Kim To-yun, ex-commander of the Defense Security, who was appointed by President Kim, was suddenly replaced by Yim Chae-mun, chief of staff of the Defense Security Command, last 21 October, Mr. P. is said to have played a major role.

Because at the time the government only said that "(Kim, ex-commander of the Defense Security) resigned for personal reasons" regarding his replacement as the commander of the Defense Security, the real reasons were not known until now. But, informed persons say, it is certain that Mr. P. interfered in these affairs.

While the Blue House prohibits any exclusive talks between the president and the commander of the Defense Security since the new government began, it has obtained information on the military's thoughts (especially those of Hanahoe) through the national defense minister and separately through the managing staffs of the Defense Security Command, they say. It is because information obtained through official channels was in many cases different from that obtained through unofficial lines, especially, of the Hanahoe's thoughts which the Blue House has given deep thought to, information obtained through official channels tend to have less value. Accordingly, Mr. P. and Mr. H., another influential person in the Blue House, found the situation to be unusual and made a recommendation to the president to replace the defense security commander.

"It is well known that since President Kim was in opposition, he surely has operated multiple information channels. This is for keeping 'checks and balances'. Although the president initially trusted in the information from official channels as much as can be, he realized it often differed from information from unofficial lines. Thus he decided to change the official channel. Because he could not change the minister who was in charge of the official channel, he eventually had no choice but to dismiss the defense security commander who was a faithful staff officer to Minister Kwon," said a person well informed on the military and the Blue House.

"By changing the defense security commander, the president intended not only to secure the support of the government by the Army but to check the arbitrary actions of ministers and the chiefs of the general staff of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and anyone else," he added.

It is known to have been Mr. P. who, in compliance with the president's intention, looked for a successor to the post of defense security commander. Although Mr. P. called Major General K. (serving at the National Defense Ministry) and Major General L. (serving at the Army Headquarters), both of whom are 22d-term graduates of the Military Academy and classmates of Commander Kim, to the Blue House and asked them to take the post, they both reportedly declined the offer.

Eventually Brigadier General Yim Chae-mun, chief of the staff of the Defense Security Command, was selected. The ex-Commander Kim did not know he was being replaced even two days before. On 19 October, when the ex-commander stopped in at the U.S. Army heliport at Yongsan on his way to the main operations meeting at Kyeryongdae, he was said to have been comforted by some colleague generals for his not being promoted to a major general in the previous day's promotion changes. That is, needless to say, because of the silence kept by the Blue House which is well known for President Kim's ability to guard secrets better than the military.

The next day after Yim, the newly appointed commander of the defense security, who is the 3d-term graduate of the ROTC and is keen and punctual like his nickname of 'German soldier', took office, he visited President Kim with Mr. Pak Kwan-yong, chief secretary of the Blue House also attending. At that time, the commander was said to have been instructed by President Kim to keep special watch on unusual movements of Hanahoe members and of graduates of the Military Academy and report to the Blue House of any unusual occurrences.

This meant the system of the defense security commander's direct report to the president was renewed. Therefore, Yim's authority seems to have been expanded beyond that of ex-Commander Kim. The system of direct reports to the president even on the problems of the national defense minister who is second to the president on military affairs, was established, related persons analyzed.

As if he put such instructions into practice, five days after taking office, he conducted personnel changes in the command, relieving many Military Academy graduates of their posts.

Transferred to the Defense Security Command in 1967 as a first lieutenant, Commander Yim is a competent intelligence officer who has mainly served at the Second (intelligence section, abolished in the last March reorganization) and Third (anti-Communist section) Sections. Under the Fifth Republic, he deeply intervened in campus activities and made perfectly logical statements even at the countermeasure meetings of the related organizations. This style of his came in sight even in his first personnel changes. He appointed officers other than the Military Academy graduates to all of the important posts in the command—Brigadier General Song Tae-song (17th-term graduate of the Air Force Academy, ex-section chief of the Defense Security Command) to the post of chief of staff, Colonel Pak Hyo-chun (military officer training center graduate, ex-Masan Detachment commanding officer of the Defense Security Command) to the post of first section chief (in charge of security) and Colonel Cho Chong-ho (4th-term graduate of the ROTC, ex-Materials and Data Management Office chief) to the post of the 100th Detachment commanding officer of the Defense Security in the National Defense Ministry.

On the other hand, he ordered two generals, Brigadier General Choe Chae-rim (23d-term graduate) ex-detachment commanding officer of the Defense Security in the National Defense Ministry and Brigadier General Song Hwa-yong (24th-term graduate) ex-detachment commanding officer of the Defense Security in the Army Headquarters, three colonels graduated from the Military Academy including No Tok-ho (31st-term graduate, ex-detachment deputy commanding officer of the Defense Security in the Army Headquarters), and four senior colonels including Kim Hyon (military officer training center graduate), to return to Army Headquarters.

These are not all of the structure reductions of the Defense Security Command. The Defense Security Command which made a large-scale reform from the end of last March to the beginning of April is undergoing a second reform under Commander Yim's leadership. At the beginning of November, the commander discharged from service or returned to their original units several lieutenant colonels who had served in the command or other detachments across the country. The same measures are expected to be taken soon with officers below major in rank.

This year the command cut 703 persons from its establishment, down from 6,047 to 5,324. The command first planned to gradually reduce approximately 400 more personnel by 1997, but the reduction was carried out far sooner than expected. After the new government began, the command dissolved 61 small forces of the defense secretary which had been secretly run and annexed them into their higher units. And it abolished the intelligence section which was denounced for illegal intervention in politics and inspections of civilians, and instead established a new Materials and Data Management Office, reorganized and reduced the structure from four sections and three offices to three sections and four offices.

The 1994 command's budget was cut 14.4 percent from this year's, from 37.5 billion to 32.1 billion won. A budget area especially hard hit was the reduction of 1.8 billion won for intelligence activities. This fact leads us to believe that the operation of the command is being reduced. As to the role and status of the Defense Security Command which had been the most powerful organization in the military during the Fifth and Sixth Republics, differences of opinions are likely.

After Commander Yim Chae-mun's structure began, the commanding officers of the command enjoyed the confidence of the Blue House, but the general personnel are more demoralized than ever. Driving out the Military Academy graduates in the command seems to be a primary factor contributing to rising complications between the Military Academy graduates and other officers.

A defense security officer graduated from the Military Academy spoke frankly, "Officers in the command can be promoted only if they serve in the headquarters, not in its subordinate units. But in the second reform of the command, many officers from the Military Academy were forced to return to their units or to transfer to its subordinate units. What does this mean except that they should be discharged from service? Although I was frequently misunderstood and disliked while working as a secret agent in the past, I have not regretted taking this job as much as I do these days."

Minister Kwon Yong-hae is leading the military reform which focuses on driving out Hanahoe and reducing the structure of the Defense Security Command. (Most military men say that the word 'change' is more appropriate than 'reform'.) Then how long will his power really last? What is the source of the power, and in what manner is it being exercised?

It is a firm opinion that his leadership of the military is derived from the confidence of President Kim. First, the President's confidence of Minister Kwon is known to be immense. This seems to be a result of Minister Kwon's loyalty combined with President Kim's tendency to believe in trustworthy men to the end.

According to some in the Blue House, recently President Kim's view of Minister Kwon is beginning to change. Of course, his confidence in Minister Kwon has not yet diminished. But until a little while ago, the president's philosophy was to [illegible] mainly on the minister for military control, but this is said to be gradually changing.

This is exemplified by events such as the sudden dismissal of Kim To-yun, ex-defense security commander, the new commander's direct report to the Blue House, and an exclusive talk with Kim Tong-chin, the Army Chief of the General Staff (3 November). As stated before, the president, through changing the defense security commander, is going to check the expanding power of Minister Kwon and will enjoy more of the minister's loyalty and the military brains.

But, some analyze, the change of defense security commander may cause Minister Kwon to remain long in office. It is said to be because the president has become confident of his control of the military and has no man equal to Minister Kwon. In other words, the president is said to have a plan to check Hanahoe and the Military

Academy graduates through the defense security commander, one who has not graduated from the Military Academy, and to carry forward the second reform of the military—the reasonable execution of the national defense budget and the establishment of the future military system through Minister Kwon's loyal work.

But Minister Kwon will know his duty well as a National Defense Minister. It is just that he should take care of the Army and help them perform their duties faithfully, as President Kim promised, in observance of Armed Forces Day held in the drill ground field at Kyeryongdae last 1 October, that he trusted firmly in his Army and would take the lead in enhancing their honor and dignity.

The military's discontentment with Minister Kwon up to this point seems to stem from the minister's inability to adequately protect them from outside influences such as the Blue House and the political world. A colonel serving in the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, "Everybody will recognize that although the minister is only an ex-major general, he conducts business better and thinks more rationally than an ex-general. But I think the minister is an official man who has many problems to settle politically rather than administratively. The minister did not handle with a firmly subjective view the Hanahoe, the persons involved in the 12 December incident, the absurd personnel changes, and the absurdity of the Yulgok Program. The minister's personal problems such as his brother Kwon Yong-ho's accepting bribes from a military goods supplier and the bad rumors related to the Yulgok Program during his tenure as vice-minister should no longer be targets of criticism. It is urgent to prevent unrest in the military and to stabilize them. I think this should be the most important consideration in evaluating the minister."

The chiefs of the general staff of the three armed services have also changed significantly from the past. In short, they are trying to read the minds of the minister and members of the Blue House. They report to the minister all the military affairs which in the past they could settle on their own. They leave Kyeryongdae and stay in Seoul about two days a week.

Amid the circumstances, the fact that President Kim had an exclusive talk with the Army Chief of the General Staff Kim for the first time last 3 November is a big change. Similar talks are expected to occur with the heads of the Navy and Air Force. Minister Kwon may be sorry to see this happen. But, many people think these talks are desirable because it will allow for "the checks and balances" of the military power.

Minister Kwon is known as a man with many strengths such as a glib tongue, perfectly logical thinking power, and a profound knowledge. On the other hand, he has some weak points. The most obvious is that he does not have many reliable people around him. According to people well acquainted with him, he had no opportunities to make many friends around him, overpowered by the Hanahoe's influence in the past. So he readily hired persons with whom he had worked once or twice and in many cases, they failed.

A typical case is Yim Chong-sop, the chief of the personnel staff of the Army Headquarters, who was relieved of his post on a charge of accepting a bribe in connection with a military construction project last 8 November. Major General Yim had won Minister Kwon's confidence during his service as an artillery regimental commander under Minister Kwon, the then Sixth Division commander. So, Yim had been appointed to the post of chief of the personnel staff of the Army Headquarters to succeed Major General Choe Sung-u (21st-term graduate) who was relieved of this post last April by reason of his membership in the Hanahoe.

Last 2 October, citing the special statement of Minister Kwon, the National Defense Ministry vowed that "The Army shall be reborn, as one which will enjoy the people's love and confidence and carry out its original duty faithfully." "At one time, the Army strayed from its mission of serving public interest and justice because some groups gave priority to regionalism, kinship, or other interests." It reflected on itself. "The Army itself also committed bad acts by expecting or fostering in secret uncommon human relations."

Within a month after the promotions and personnel changes of the Army generals were completed and the wrong-doings of suspected key post generals were exposed, some soldiers said, "Another special statement by the minister should be made."

According to many soldiers, they do not see any changes in the military from the past—the military feels uneasy and even the right of command, which is the most important factor in the Army, seems unsettled. This is caused mainly by the frequent personnel changes made without any firm standard.

Even this year, due to three or four sudden personnel changes, in addition to the periodical one, soldiers say they feel uneasy and discontented with the changes, and that sudden changes are dangerous and has caused the military to be discouraged. Some say, "Even if they are discharged from service, it should be with honor and justice" or "Soldiers discharged from the service with grudges against the military could possibly be uneasy for the military."

With the frequent personnel changes by the new government, the commanders of the Defense Security, the Army Education and the Capital Corps have all changed three or four times this year. They ask how stable can commands of units be under such circumstances. Officers point this out because the reforms of the military have been made impromptu, without any program. Most officers do not want the military to be the subject of politicians' experimentation.

According to Professor Hong Tu-sung (Sociology) of Seoul University, last September, "the influence of the military on our politics" is 4.85 percent, sharply down from 12.6 percent in June 1990 and 32.3 percent in 1988. In the year 2000, less than 1.5 percent, the lowest of the power elite groups, is expected.

The competitive rate of next year's applicant for entrance to the Military Academy is a bit more than 4 to 1, less than that of the average year, the lowest since the academy opened. Those of the Naval and Air Force Academies are also, though a little higher than the Military Academy, unprecedentedly low. The factors which will give a sense of crisis to the military group are drawing near more remarkably than ever.

Under such circumstances, next year's national defense budget is 10,490 billion won, a 9.6 percent increase over the previous year, and will be more than 10 trillion won for the first time in history. In the budget, operational and maintenance expenses are 7,035.7 billion won, an 11.7 percent increase, but the build-up expenses of new war potential show a decrease of 79 percent over the previous year.

Some people fear the day will come when such an enormous budget will be entrusted to deteriorated career soldiers. Military experts say that from now on, the government should reduce the operational and maintenance expenses and divert these funds to the modernization and specialization of the military and the maintenance of superior manpower, and that in order to reduce the operational and maintenance expenses, the government should first largely unify duplicate structures in the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and liquidate nonurgent units. Mr. Chi Man-won (51), a commentator on the military, said, "If the government gets rid of nonessential units and structures in the military, it could save more than 100,000 military personnel. As a result the government could save much in the national defense budget. If it commits these soldiers to the industrial areas, it could get an increase of more than three trillion won of gross national product a year."

Many soldiers say that only if President Kim lets the ordinary soldiers serve in the military peacefully with honor and high morale after driving out political soldiers, will his reform of the military succeed. If done so, nobody will object to the notion that "the military could secure the freedom and rights of the people and be the wheel of the cart that is loaded with the happiness and prosperity of the people," as President Kim said in observance of Armed Forces Day.

Cambodia

AFP Reports Two Britons, Australian Abducted

BK1204083294 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh, April 12 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen abducted two Britons and an Australian travelling in a taxi from Phnom Penh to the port town of Sihanoukville, British embassy officials said Tuesday.

"The car was stopped around 5.30 p.m. by armed gunmen, they were taken out of the car and ordered into the bush," an embassy official said.

The taxi driver was then ordered to drive on, he said.

The three, who were only identified as a male and female from Britain and a woman from Australia, were abducted near Sre Ambel about 130 kilometers (75 miles) south of the capital, the official said.

The embassy official refused to call the incident a kidnapping.

"No ransom has been demanded and there is no reason to believe one will be," he said.

A local police officer told AFP by telephone that he believed the Khmer Rouge were responsible.

"If it was government soldiers they would just ask for money or cigarettes," the officer said.

The embassy official said two of the three abducted were residents here and one was a tourist. [passage omitted]

Hun Sen Comments on Pailin, Thai Relations

BK1204081394 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0220 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Statement by Hun Sen, second prime minister of Cambodia, in Pailin; date not given—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] Now, I wish to speak to the goal of attacking and controlling Pailin. The Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] has no intention whatsoever of continuing the war. I will support Samdech Krompreah [Norodom Ranariddh] in his efforts to implement our king's initiative to woo the Khmer Rouge into settling the problem peacefully. Since all manner of attempts and all (?discussions) between Samdech Krompreah and H.E. Khieu Samphan have failed, however, and since the people and the KRAF [Khmer Royal Armed Forces] have continued to suffer from further attacks, Samdech Krompreah and I have decided to launch the attacks to take control of Anlung Veng, Pailin, An Seh, and other areas. If we do not destroy the bases in Pailin and Anlung Veng and other places, the Cambodian people can never live in peace. This is because the Khmer Rouge have used all those bases to attack them and the KRAF.

I would also like to say that the RGC is duty-bound to implement Article I of the Constitution, which stipulates clearly that the Kingdom of Cambodia is an indivisible state. We have the task of controlling Cambodia totally, according to the Constitution. We have resorted to offensives only after the talks between Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh and the Khmer Rouge became unproductive. We can no longer let Cambodia remain divided. According to the Constitution, the royal government has to control the entire kingdom. Therefore, the attacks on Anlung Veng, Pailin, or other places do not constitute a violation of anybody's territory or border. They are the tasks carried out by the RGC in compliance with the Constitution. Moreover, our policy is to use military measures to enter into a political dialogue.

Samdech Krompreah and I are of the same opinion that if the Khmer Rouge continue to enjoy their military, economic, political, psychological, and diplomatic support, its leaders will not soften their political stances, no matter what. So the attack on Pailin is to isolate the Khmer Rouge and to soften its political stance while the government leaves the door open for political dialogue to achieve national reconciliation.

We continue to implement, not just accept, His Majesty's initiative. The Khmer Rouge has to fulfill the three necessary tasks while the royal government implements the two others. First, the Khmer Rouge has to stop firing on and destroying property; second, it has to surrender its troops to the royal government; and third, it has to hand over the regions under its control to the government. As for the government, it should fulfill two tasks: first, it should agree to include the Khmer Rouge troops in the KRAF; second, it should allow acceptable Khmer Rouge personages to hold some ministerial or advisory posts.

Samdech Krompreah and I are prepared to hold political discussion with H.E. [His Excellency] Khieu Samphan. The RGC wants to cease hostilities in compliance with His Majesty's initiative. Especially on this new year occasion, we want to have an unconditional and general cease-fire throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia so as to allow people to enjoy the new year celebration. The KRAF, police, and people, as well as the Khmer Rouge troops, all want to be happy on this occasion. If Democratic Kampuchea agrees to a general cease- fire, the KRAF have no reason whatsoever to launch attacks. Taking this opportunity, I would like to appeal, in case the Khmer Rouge leaders disagree, to the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea officers and soldiers to lay their arms aside and come in to enjoy popular games with the people and the KRAF. This is a very good opportunity for reconciliation.

Now, I want to talk a bit about the plan to develop Pailin. We have not only attacked and occupied Pailin militarily, but we should also develop it in line with other regions throughout the country. We need to transform Pailin into an administrative region. The RGC plans to request that the National Assembly authorize the designation of Pailin as a town with a structure equal to that of a province. The government has already set up a group of delegates with the duty of organizing this area as a development zone.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to appeal to the people who have been forced out of the Pailin region by the Khmer Rouge into Thailand or other areas to return. If they return, we will hand their homes or land back to them. We want to give priority to those forced by the Khmer Rouge to follow them. When they return, we will allow them to own homes legally as other people do.

[Summary from poor reception] I want to talk a bit about relations with Thailand. Prince Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, presented this issue to the Kingdom of Thailand on 8 April. As for myself, I will make an urgent visit to Bangkok on 16 April. That will be an urgent working visit to solve not only the Cambodian-Thai border problem at Pailin, but also the issue of security along the common border. I wish to emphasize that while I am there, I will not discuss the issue of establishing the boundary between the two countries because the Thai-Cambodian border, except for the maritime border, has been recognized since His Majesty's Sangkum Reas Niyum era. There have already been maps and proper arrangements. The purpose of my next trip is to settle the problems between Thailand and Cambodia concerning the control of the security situation and the relations of good neighborliness. This is to turn the common border into a border of peace, friendship, and cooperation. I will first make clear with the Kingdom of Thailand that the Khmer Rouge office near the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh does not mean that Cambodia is separated into two different countries. Some Thai leaders have said that the Khmer Rouge has not been outlawed yet because its representatives are still in Phnom Penh. I would like to underline that legally, there is only the royal government, which is the result of the UN-sponsored elections that the royal Thai government has already recognized. There is no other legitimate force on Cambodian soil other than the RGC. As for the Khmer Rouge office in Phnom Penh, it only represents a political liaison among Cambodians. This issue is purely an internal affair. The RGC also wants to keep dialogue through the Phnom Penh Khmer Rouge office with the aim of seeking a political solution. Nonetheless, we would like to specify to the entire world not to consider the Khmer Rouge office in Phnom Penh proof of Cambodia's division into two. This is the first point I want to clarify to my counterpart in Bangkok.

Second, we want to implement the Cambodian Government statement that all contracts previously concluded by Thai companies with the Khmer Rouge will be recognized. I will urge those companies to do business with the RGC, because the trade will have a bright future and be legal. The RGC will not tolerate any violation of Cambodian laws, policy, or economy.

I hope that my statement will not (?upset) the Thai side. This is done with the intention of settling problems and avoiding creation of new ones, and is also forewords to Bangkok. Anyway, we still have a lot of problems to discuss if the visit is to take place after this new year celebration.

Laos

PASASON Hails 'Success' of Keating Visit

BK1204090294 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 7 Apr 94

[7 April PASASON editorial: "New Step for Lao-Australian Relations and Cooperation"]

[Text] By an invitation from His Excellency [H.E.] Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], H.E. Paul Keating, prime minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, led a government delegation to pay an official, friendly visit to the LPDR from 5 to 6 April. During the visit, H.E. Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating and his delegation were accorded a warm welcome by H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and the multiethnic Lao people. H.E. Paul Keating and the delegation paid a courtesy call on H.E. Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the LPDR, in an atmosphere of warm friendship. It was considered a very significant event in the history of good relations between Laos and Australia.

An official consultative meeting to exchange views between H.E. Khamtai Siphandon and H.E. Paul Keating was held at the Prime Minister's Office in Vientiane in an atmosphere of profound friendship and mutual understanding. During the meeting, the two prime ministers informed each other about the domestic situation as well as lines and policies in their respective countries, the lines and policies which serve as a firm basis for effectively strengthening cooperation for the benefit of the peoples of Laos and Australia, thus contributing to the common trend of establishing and promoting peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation among various countries in the region and the rest of the world.

Noteworthy is that following the consultative meeting, the two sides reached an agreement on investment promotion and protection between the two countries. This agreement is considered an important basis for improving cooperation between the Lao and Australian peoples to a new level—a level which will bring about ever greater benefits for the two countries. Following the meeting, the Australian Government pledged to continue its support and assistance to Laos. Regarding this, beginning in 1994, the Australian Government will establish a 47.5 million Australian dollar four-year aid project for Laos. In addition, the Australian Government has decided to give, through the WHO, gratis aid in the form of food worth one million Australian dollars to

Laos. It will also continue to support and encourage more and more Australian businessmen to invest in the LPDR.

During the visit, H.E. Paul Keating also attended the hand over ceremony of the Border Control Station at the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge, which was built with gratis financial aid from the Australian Government and people as a gift to the LPDR. The assistance given to the LPDR by the Australian Government and people in building the Border Control Station as well as the Friendship Bridge and other projects in the recent past has substantially reflected the long-standing relations of friendship between Laos and Australia, which have fruitfully developed with each passing day.

The multiethnic Lao people highly assess the effective assistance in various fields given by Australia, and consider it an important contribution to the development of economic infrastructure for the LPDR. The multiethnic Lao people also would like to wholeheartedly hail the glorious success of H.E. Paul Keating and delegation on their visit to the LPDR, a visit which will contribute to further strengthening the already effective friendly relations and cooperation between Laos and Australia for the benefit of the Lao and Australian people as well as in the interests of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation for the development in Asia-Pacific and the rest of the world.

Thai King Urges Businessmen 'To Impress' Lao

BK1004130294 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 10 Apr 94 pp 1,3

[Text] His Majesty the King yesterday urged Thais living in Laos to view the Friendship Bridge as a symbol to mark the start of a new era of relations and friendship between Thailand and Laos and their people. He warned that relations between the two countries would deteriorate as in the past if his advice was not heeded.

"I visited Laos this time through the Friendship Bridge. I would like the bridge to be the start of a new era of your performance and the new era of relations between Thailand and Laos," His Majesty told 200 Thais who were granted an audience before he left for Bangkok at the end of his two-day visit to Laos, his first foreign visit in almost 30 years.

On their performance, His Majesty referred to the duty of all Thais to do their best to carry out their work as representatives of Thailand. This was his first remark on the bridge since he jointly presided over its formal opening with Laotian President Nouhak Phoumsavan on Friday. Most of the 200 Thais granted an audience by His Majesty were businessmen and industrialists.

He told them their performance, which impresses Laotian officials and people, would enhance peace and security between the two countries. "If you do as suggested, you will be regarded as fulfilling your duty as a Thai," he said.

"A detrimental performance will jeopardise peace and friendship between the two countries and will finally lead to a situation that you are unable to stay in this country," the King stressed.

Good relations between the two peoples would pave the way for more Thais to visit Laos, he said.

"Everybody here, regardless of your differences in background and objectives, must bear in mind a duty to promote friendship, to perform to impress Laotian officials and people and help Laos wherever needed," he said and cited his royally-sponsored projects which aim to improve the livelihood of Laotian people.

"He called on Thai people in Laos to show to the world an example of living harmoniously and peacefully by the way they treat their Laotian counterparts. It will be an example to other regions which will be admired and which will bring about peace," he said.

His Majesty ended his visit to Laos yesterday with the traditional Baisi well-wishing ceremony at Hokham, the presidential palace. Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon and the Laotian president as well as Mrs. Bounma also attended the ceremony. The royal family later proceeded to Wattai Airport for their journey back to Bangkok.

Earlier in the day, Their Majesties the King and Queen and the Princess visited Wat That Luang for a religious ceremony. They proceeded to a Royal orphanage sponsored by the Princess to donate sports equipment and educational materials. The royally sponsored orphanage is 67 kilometers north of Vientiane. It houses children orphaned by the war in Laos and also children from poor families.

Princess Sirinthon sponsored this project since she first visited Laos in March 1990. She built a new dormitory with donations and used her own personal funds, about 350,000 baht, to build another dormitory, named Sirinthon Building.

Thailand

Textile Exporters to U.S. Lose Bank Credits

BK1204045694 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Apr 94 p 24

[Text] The Bank of Thailand from yesterday suspended providing credits to textile and yarn products exported to the United States in order to boost Thailand's position in fighting an accusation that it dumps such goods.

Bank of Thailand spokesman Phisit Li-atham said yesterday that American industrialists claimed that Thai manufacturers of textile and yarn products obtained subsidies from the Government, enabling them to sell the goods in American markets at low prices. They asked the American authorities to impose anti-dumping duties on Thai products.

However, the Thais deny the claim. To improve Thai exporters' position in the battle, the Bank of Thailand will suspend providing credit for them in the form of promissory note discounts.

Dr Phisit said the suspension would not affect the exporters as no major companies needed such credits. Only small exporters that borrow from the central bank through commercial bank channels were affected.

Government To Increase Purchases of Iranian Oil

BK1204045494 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Apr 94 p 15

[Text] The Thai Government has promise to honour an agreement to buy Iranian crude oil, despite problems, and will bow to a demand for an increase in the supply volume.

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak pledged this yesterday while insisting that attempts will be made to persuade Teheran to reduce the crude price said to be 50-60 US cents more than the world market price for the same crude.

His statement is aimed at quelling doubts that Thailand would breach terms of the Thai-Iran countertrade deal involving Thai rice and Iranian crude.

Dr Suphachai said it would be unfair for Thailand to dishonour the oil deal as Iran has already fulfilled its commitment by buying Thai rice. He stressed the importance of Iran as a major export market, especially at the time of market difficulties.

Teheran has already bought 412,343 tons of Thai rice as part of the agreement in return for the sale of Iranian crude to Thailand at the volume of 20,000 barrels a day (b/d).

Suggestions were made by some Cabinet members that Thailand should yield to Teheran's demand to increase the purchase volume of Iranian oil from the National Iranian Oil Corp (NIOC) to 15,000 b/d against 5,000 b/d the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) was prepared to receive.

Aside from high price, PTT, the national oil firm, has been reluctant to buy the Iranian crude which possesses undesirable high sulphur and metallic content as well as a low yield of oil products.

That results in higher refining costs and many refiners are not keen to accept the oil for refining. Oil refiners are also critical of Iran's ability to commit the delivery at an agreed time.

The PTT has said that two local oil refineries—operated by Thaioil and Bangchak Petroleum—have the capabilities to process the problematic crude with an extra cost of 78 million baht, based on the 15,000 b/d volume.

Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon will fly to Iran on April 18 to attempt to get a lower price for the Iranian crude at the level to at least cover the extra refining cost.

Mr Uthai has suggested that the sum be drawn from national coffers to compensate the PTT.

The minister supports his claims of the need to maintain Iran as a market for Thai rice. The volume of rice Teheran bought from Thailand represents 10-20

of total Thai rice exports.

Possible Exclusion of Petrochemicals From AFTA

BK1104025694 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Apr 94 p 15

[By Wichit Sirithawiphon]

[Text] Thailand may elect to exclude some petrochemical products from AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area] liberalisation if Indonesia and Malaysia insist on doing the same said an informed Finance Ministry source.

Thailand keeps petrochemical industries under the ASEAN Free Trade Area normal track while Indonesia and Malaysia keep these industries on an exclusion list, added the source. However, Thailand will not include all petrochemical products in the exclusion list—only locally-made products will be protected, he noted.

The source commented that Singapore stands to gain advantages over its neighbouring countries in these industries as it has more fully integrated its industries. The source noted that Singaporean products would flood the three countries if import taxes were diminished.

Malaysia has systematically developed its petrochemical industries while Indonesia has only six downstream petrochemical industries, explained the source. However, Brunei and the Philippines have not established petrochemical industries, noted the source. Thailand will keep petrochemical industries under an exclusion list but plans to reduce the protection period from eight to five years.

According to the source, the list of the protected items are ethylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polystrylene, polypropylene, and propylene. The source confirmed that today's AFTA meeting, chaired by Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin, will consider this matter among other issues.

The studies conducted by the Ministry of Finance indicate that it is necessary to support the Thai petrochemical industry as it is a major basic industry and is only in its early development stages, noted the source. The source said if Malaysia and Indonesia accept a Ministry of Finance proposal to keep their petrochemical industries under the normal track, the Ministry would develop alternatives to help the emerging industries faced with a high interest rate burden.

The agenda for the AFTA meeting today will consider ways to expedite the realisation of the free trade area from 15 to 10-12 years, to include consideration on non-processed agricultural products, said the source. The source conceded that disagreement among ASEAN members continues on the definition of the terms "processed" and "non-processed" goods.

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak has proposed that Thailand withdraw some petrochemical products from the normal track to the exclusion list if other ASEAN countries decide to add their products to the exclusion list.

According to Dr Suphachai, if Thailand could successfully negotiate with the two countries to bring the petrochemical industries under the normal track, Thailand could accept the Malaysian request that it keep palm oil under the normal track.

Previously the Thai Government proposed to keep the petrochemical industry under the fast track, however, it has decided to keep the industry under the normal track.

The local production cost of the Thai industry is higher than imports regardless of upstream, intermediate or downstream industries. The reason cited is expensive local raw materials and the fact that production has not achieved economy of scale.

Malaysian Police Join Hunt for Bombing Suspects

BK1104031094 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Apr 94 p A1

[By Manit Siwayasirot]

[Text] A fifty-man police task force is being joined by Malaysian special branch police in the border hunt for six men believed responsible for two recent bomb attacks in Songkhla, the southern provincial police chief said yesterday.

Pol Maj Gen [Police Major General] Pricha Saengwan said the Malaysian police had pledged cooperation in the search for the suspects, who may have already sneaked into Kelantan state.

"We have deployed about 50 officers for the operation," said Pricha. "They will coordinate with our own special branch police and Malaysia's special branch, which operates in Kelantan."

The Songkhla governor had endorsed police warrants for the arrest of the six suspects, whom Pricha said have connections with southern Muslim separatist guerrillas.

"They have links with Pulo (the Pattani United Liberation Organization). That's all I can say, otherwise the information may affect the police hunt for suspects," Pricha said.

The suspects were believed to be responsible for a bomb explosion in Hat Yai's main shopping area early last month that injured three Thais and four foreign tourists, and a later blast that derailed a southern passenger train in Songkhla's Na Mom subdistrict. No serious injuries were reported in the derailment, but the sabotage triggered protests by railways workers and resulted in stepped-up security on the southern railroad.

Police will begin regular helicopter patrols of southern rail routes in a few days, Pricha said.

Pricha said it would take at least two more weeks before he will be able to report the progress of the joint Thai-Malaysian dragnet.

Pol Lt Gen [Police Lieutenant General] Michai Nukunkit, assistant police director general responsible for the South, confirmed that Malaysia's special branch chief had promised to help hunting down the six suspects.

Government Rejects Charge on Helping Khmer Rouge

BK1104142794 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Thailand rejects a charge that it helped Khmer Rouge leaders to escape.

The Thai Government has issued an explanation denying a report that said Thailand helped the Khmer Rouge leaders to escape. The Thai Government, however, does not think the accusation was made by the Cambodian leaders, but rather views it as a misinterpretation by news agencies.

Relations between Thailand and Cambodia have been smooth and growing closer. Both countries understand and accept each other's stand concerning its foreign policy. Thailand, especially, has a clear-cut policy of recognition to the elected government of Cambodia, and noninterference in Cambodia's internal affairs. It has abstained from giving support to the Khmer Rouge. This policy has been emphasized by the Thai Government to the Cambodian Government on several occasions. The report accusing Thailand of helping the Khmer Rouge leaders to escape was utterly inaccurate. The distortion of facts might come from misunderstanding or misinterpretation by news agencies. It could also be possible that some news agencies wanted to destroy the good relations existing between Thailand and Cambodia.

Thailand does not want to see the close relations it has with Cambodia destroyed by just an error of news agencies that occurred regularly and, sometimes, inadvertently. For the sake of mutual understanding and to safeguard the good relations existing between the two countries, should there be any doubts about Thailand, the Cambodian Government is hereby requested to directly address Thailand through diplomatic channels.

There is no need to go through a third country since Thailand and Cambodia have several proper channels for contact.

Foreign Ministry's Invitation to Burma Ridiculed

BK1004105894 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 10 Apr 94 p 24

[Editorial: "It's Time-wasting Telling Burma What Press Freedom Is About"]

[Text] After the 1988 uprising in Burma, it was said that the Thai Ambassador to Rangoon was summoned to the Burmese Foreign Ministry and berated by a minister for something he had not done and had no control over—Thai press reports of the Rangoon government's atrocities and persecution of its people in the aftermath of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [Slorc] takeover.

When the ambassador entered the office of the Burmese minister, the latter reportedly slammed a copy of one of Thailand's English-language dailies on the table before the Thai envoy could take a seat, and demanded: "What's the meaning of this? Why does your government allow the press in your country to publish lies about us?"

The Thai diplomat was stunned by such behaviour coming from a high-ranking official. He had not even had time to calmly reply that there is such a thing as freedom of the press in his country. It seems, however, the words of a Thai diplomat hold no water in a country where the word freedom is rivalled by its powerful nemesis—imprisonment.

Now we hear that the Thai Foreign Ministry has invited Burmese Information Minister Myo Thant to Bangkok on Wednesday to explain the Government's policy on a free and liberal press.

The invitation is aimed at erasing Rangoon's doubts that the Government supports press criticism of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, according to sources in the Interior Ministry. The sources added that the visit will provide Brigadier General Myo Thant the opportunity to see that the Thai press has the freedom to express its opinion without Government control.

How the Government is going to do this, we do not know, but one thing we do know is that it will be a waste of the Thai Government's time, money, and energy to expect a non-believer in basic human rights to understand what freedom of speech means.

As members of the press, we strongly object to the Government's plans to display us like freaks in a sideshow to the Burmese military while at the same time pursuing a policy of "constructive engagement" with the so-called Burmese government, which has been shunned by most of the international community. We do not believe in the staging of a Richardson-Suu Kyi-like circus to try to fool the world into thinking that authoritarianism does not exist in Burma, when in fact it does. In short: Don't use the press like Khin Nyunt does, for his own selfish reasons.

If freedom of press does exist in this country, as the Government claims, then there is no reason to shout it for the rest of the world to hear, especially Burma, which is calling itself Myanmar and has changed its flag without the consent of its people.

The Thai press knows how much freedom it has and where to draw the line when reporting on events that affect national security or when criticising a high-ranking government or military official. This is called responsible journalism or self-censorship, depending on how one looks at it. It is said that the press in Thailand is the most free of all those in the ASEAN countries. We praise the Government for showing such a high degree of tolerance for the fourth estate.

The Rangoon government already knows the Thai press has the freedom to air its opinions, if and when it sees fit, without government control, even when criticising Burma or other countries. This paper has even assailed Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri's decision to invite Rangoon to attend the ASEAN conference in July as guest of the host country.

The generals in Burma also know that the press in Thailand has a voice of its own because it refuses to address that country as Myanmar and its capital as Yangon, despite the acquiescence of this Government and the United Nations. The BANGKOK POST and THE NATION have turned down repeated requests by the Burmese Embassy on Pan Road to stop calling its country Burma. We choose not to comply with their request because doing so would mean recognising an illegitimate government. As one prominent Thai editor put it: "Burma remains Burma until the Burmese people decide for themselves after elections whether the name of their country should be changed."

So if this Government is to invite the Burmese Information Minister here just to prove that there is a free press in this country, then it is wasting its time. It's plain stupidity to cast pearls before swine, or as the Burmese themselves say, to woo a buffalo with the melodious sounds of the harp.

Instead, we suggest that the invitation be extended to the silenced members of the Slorc-controlled media. They would appreciate the chance to see for themselves how their counterparts in Thailand practice journalism in a free society without interference or intimidation from the powers that be.

Commentary Criticizes Policy Toward Burma

BK1104030594 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Apr 94 p A6

[Commentary by "Green November 32 (Burma)," a Chiang Mai University-based non-governmental organization: "In the name of 'constructive engagement'?"]

[Text] A number of senior cabinet ministers including Foreign Minister Sqdn. Ldr. [Squadron Leader] Prasong Sunsiri, Democrat Party General Secretary Maj. Gen. Sanan Kachonprasat and PM's [Prime Minister's] Office Minister Sawit Phothiwihok will be going to Rangoon in the coming weeks to discuss joint energy development and water diversion plans with the ruling military junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc).

It is anticipated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed on Thailand's buying natural gas from the Manaban Gasfield that is currently being developed by the multinational oil companies Total CFP (France) and Unocal Corp (USA).

These projects are evidently a major component of the Asean "constructive engagement" policy towards the Slorc.

A few points and some questions need to be pointed out and asked about the planned gas pipeline, the ceasefires that are currently being discussed between Slorc and the ethnic groups, security issues, the repatriation/relocation of refugees, and the living and labour conditions of villagers in the Ye-Tavoy area through which the gas pipeline will run.

These are issues that are very much interrelated, a fact that some parties may not like others to realize.

In the past two months most of the 8,000 semi-recognized Mon refugees who have been taking shelter in Thailand for the last 3-4 years have been compelled by Thai authorities to move to a place called Halaukhani. This site is no more than 12 kilometres from a major Slorc army base and is in even closer proximity to the military junta's frontline heavy weapons positions.

The Mon, Karen and many others insist that the area that the refugees have been sent to is clearly inside Burma, a claim validated by all but a few recent Thai maps. Some UNHCR officials have said that the site is in a "no-man's-land" on a "very fluid" border, while other officials accept the Thai claim that it is Thai territory. (Incidentally the UNHCR officials say that the ideal secure distance for a refugee settlement is around 50 kilometres from the borders.)

The Thai authorities have according to local sources been inconsistent in their claims that the site is in Thai territory although they are currently insistent that it is. Whatever it is, it is vulnerable to attack, and there are many reports in the papers expressing the reluctance of the Mon refugees and leaders about going there. The Mon have used virtually every form of media available to them other than coming out openly—there have allegedly been personal death threats amongst other threats—to make plain their concern about the lack of security in Halaukhani.

In the context of what they are convinced is a forced repatriation, the Mon have also made their belief very "clear that they are being pressured to agree to a ceasefire so that the (natural gas) pipeline can be built" through the Mon lands.

The coerced repatriation into an area where the refugees could be said to be as vulnerable as hostages is clearly one of the forms of pressure that are being brought to bear on the Mon leaders by Thai authorities as they begin the ceasefire negotiations with the notoriously treacherous Slorc regime.

The second round of talks between the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Slorc began in mid March, just after news reports stated that two Slorc battalions had been deployed in apparent preparation for an attack on the Mon Headquarters at Baho.

The talks have now been called off—and the Mon leadership have more than a little justification for being concerned about the well- being of their kindred—particularly the almost defenseless refugees at Halaukhani.

A source of further worry connected to the gas pipelines is its relationship to the Ye-Tavoy railway on which between 10,000 and 30,000 villagers from the vicinity of the proposed pipeline are being forced to labour under appalling conditions. Testimonies given to journalists and aid workers by people who had escaped the work gangs are consistent with those given in literally hundreds of human rights interviews conducted along the border since the Slorc took power, attest to the pervasive reality of conditions tantamount to worse than slave labour.

The villagers who are forced to work from early morning to night are obliged even to provide for all of their own needs including food, medicine, and shelter, and they must also provide their own tools for doing the work of the Slorc. Slorc officials as a matter of course vehemently deny that any human rights violations take place under their governance, they also claim that all labourers are paid. However, the escapees from the railroad construction sites, including several Slorc army defectors, were unanimous that the labourers never got paid. This is also consistent with stories from numerous other sites. The stories of the escapees are of beatings, rapes, deaths from accidents and untreated diseases (such as a dysentry outbreak at the Natkyizin section of the track that different witnesses claim resulted in the deaths of more than 50 people in January) and long hours of gruelling work.

The Slorc has denied that the railway has a military purpose, claiming it is for national development and to help the local people. Despite the Rangoon military junta's claims, it's infrastructure development programmes in the area seem designed to increase the speed with which the unusually large numbers of troops who have been brought into the area in the past few years can be deployed. Even the logging concessions granted by the Slorc have served—by design—to open up access routes into the most remote parts of the border to the benefit of the Slorc troops.

The railway route, which crosses the planned pipeline route a near a place called Kanbaut and which runs parallel to the Ye-Tavoy highway some 7-10 km to the east would form a double barrier to Mon and Karen army units moving from the mountains to the sea. Units caught between the two routes by rapid deployment forces could be easily surrounded and annihilated. Furthermore, long range heavy weapons that could be brought down by rail or the currently-under- repair railway to the disputed territory through which the pipeline is to run would allow the Slorc to shell even the most remote strongholds of the Karen and Mon forces (in which areas it should be noted there are numerous internally displaced people who have not wanted to seek refuge in Thailand.) The development programmes of the military dictatorship in other areas of the country where there are ethnic minorities, have served to help the Slorc consolidate its occupation—the multi-billion dollar gasfield and pipeline programme could be seen as a strong incentive to the Slorc to make very certain that it controls the area securely.

Neither Thailand nor the Western multinational corporations who are investing in the project have any guarantee that the Slorc will not use the extremely brutal methods it has become infamous for, to secure the ground for their profit-making development programme.

Part of the process of securing the pipeline route appears to be clearing all inhabitants from anywhere near the sections of the route that are most vulnerable to attack. The villagers who formerly lived in the hills to the east of the Ye-Tavoy road, particularly those in the Zinba stream watershed directly between Kaleinaung and Nat ei taung (Ban I Tong) have all been forcibly relocated into resettlement villages beside the highway where they can be more easily controlled by the Slorc troops.

From these places they can also be easily taken to do forced labour duty such as ammunition portering, serving the Burmese troops in their encampments and labouring on the railway or the road. The lands which they have been driven off have been declared "black areas"—free fire zones for the Slorc troops. This is partially borne out by the Burmese official who said "there are no people left" from the Zinba River to Kaleinaung, leaving one to question what has happened to them.

One place other than the resettlement villages (called "strategic hamlets" or "cluster villages" in military parlance) where the villagers have gone to is Thailand. As refugees, they remain in camps such as Da Now See, Pa Yaw and Aung Tha Pyei. Many hundreds of people have fled to the relative safety of Thailand from the railway, and many more are expected to do so as people try to avoid doing murderous second or third work stints.

There are reported to be a great many more people who have left their homes to avoid the slave labour who have remained in the "liberated areas" controlled by the NMSP and the Karen National Union (KNU), and where they will probably stay until food shortages or a possible Slorc attack drives them over the border.

Reliable local sources say that an average of 20 new asylum seekers per day are coming through just two of the many possible routes into Thailand. It is hard to tell how many have already crossed the border as most of the people who do so will be trying to go deeper into Thailand to join the hundreds of thousands of illegal workers who appear to be better off than those on the border who fear being forcibly repatriated. Obviously there are no guarantees that the people in the camps will not be forced back over the border, especially after the examples of Halaukhani and the recent pushback of people at Pailin on the Cambodian border.

For those newly arriving at the border and seeking to stay in the camps there would be a great sense of insecurity as they cannot be sure of being allowed to register as refugees or stay in the refugee camps. Previously the number of refugees allowed to stay in the camps was fixed by the Thais.

Thailand's policy on refugees, if there is one, seems to be to keep them from ever feeling secure on Thai soil so that they would rather go back home at the first opportunity—even if it is still not safe to do so.

Thai leaders owe it to their own people not to make deals that will have serious negative repercussions for their nation. In the past, personal interests of leaders have often been put before the national interest, and certainly before the interests of the indigenous peoples and the environment, with a result that lives, cultures, national economies and the environment could be severely destroyed.

Army To Take 'Tough Measures' on Khmer Bandits

BK1104152394 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The situation at the Thai-Cambodian border is not a cause for concern now. Troubles are created by groups of bandits in uniforms who are stricken by poverty. The Thai Army has no intention of causing trouble in Cambodia. Cambodia's internal affairs should be solved among the Cambodian people. Army Commander General Wimon Wongwanit was interviewed by newsmen in Nakhon Ratchasima this morning:

[Begin Wimon recording] The situation now is not as serious as in the past. Otherwise, more people would have fled into our country again—there have been no refugees these days. There is some trouble for our people being created by the bandits in uniform; we are trying to suppress them. We are coordinating work with unit commanders on the other side of the border to solve the problem. If they cannot get their bad elements under control, we will have to resort to tough measures to suppress them. I notice that those people are very poor. They have small salaries, and sometimes there was a delay in salary payment, and so on so forth. So those who lack discipline created trouble for our people. Sometimes, the problems stemmed from cheating among themselves since they are involved in arms and cattle smuggling. We are not responsible for all the troubles, but they are responsible. In this connection, the Army is ready to take the strongest measure to deal with those troubles and will not allow them to go on like this.

I would like to stress here that the Thai Army has never caused trouble in Cambodia. We want to see peace and prosperity, and to see our neighbors live happily. We do not want to see killing between Cambodian factions. But that's their duty to solve the problem. We have nothing to do with it. [End recording]

Border Point Closed Temporarily Following Fire

BK1004090794 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 10 Apr 94 p 3

[Text]Sa Kaeo—Governor Kasem Chaisit yesterday suspected arson as the cause of the inferno which devastated a border market in Aranyaprathet district Friday night.

About 330 stalls and some 60 million baht worth of merchandise were destroyed in the two-hour fire. Fire trucks were unable to get into the market because of the narrow access to the site and some of them had to draw water from toilets to extinguish the blaze.

The governor said the arsonists might be Thais or Cambodians who were enraged by the recent action taken by Thai authorities, upon the request of Cambodian officials in Banteay Meanchey Province, to repatriate all Cambodian traders who crossed the border to do business at Talat Rong Khrua.

He said he was awaiting the report of police investigation.

Emerging from an emergency meeting held yesterday with police and military officers, Governor Kasem said the border point at Khlong Luk-Poipet would be temporarily closed effective as of yesterday. Only authorized officials and aid workers of the United Nations agencies will be allowed to pass through the border.

The governor said the closure of the border was necessary for security reasons because of the escalation in fighting between Cambodian factions across the border. He anticipated a rise in cross border smuggling by the so-called "ant army" as a result of the border closure which is expected to cost Thai traders 10 million baht a day in lost business.

Several angry Thai traders who lost their property in the fire complained that they did not understand why the military prevented them from going into the market to retrieve their goods as the fire had not yet reached their stalls.

Governor Kasem later asked for sympathy from the traders, saying that it was necessary for the troops to ban people from getting into the market in order to prevent "third hand" elements from causing trouble. He also said the scene of the fire was only 200 meters from the border line.

Shortly before the fire, three artillery shells, fired from inside Cambodia, exploded behind a Thai military outpost killing two Cambodians and injuring three—two of them seriously. The injured were rushed to Aranyaprathet district hospital.

Military Threatens To Close Border With Poipet

BK0904110794 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Apr 94 p 6

[Text] Aranyaprathet—The Thai military has threatened to close the border here with the Cambodian town of Poipet if Cambodian forces refuse to pay for damage caused by a recent rocket attack on a village.

Col. Wanchai Nuansukhum, chief of the Aranyaprathet Task Force, issued the ultimatum at a press conference in this border town yesterday.

He said a woman was injured and about 20,000 baht in damage was caused to houses last Monday when seven 107-mm rockets, believed to have been fired by Cambodian government forces, crashed into Tambon Khlong Namsai.

The colonel said that even though the closure would affect the local economy, it was necessary to protect the lives and property of Thai villagers near the border.

Since Tuesday, all trucks and cars have been banned from crossing the border via Khlong Luk bridge, but push carts have been allowed through the nearby border crossing at Talat Rong Khlua. More than 30 million baht worth of goods has been held up on the Thai side by the partial closure, and the number of visitors to Aranyaprathet and Poipet has dropped dramatically.

Col. Wanchai said he wants to find out from Cambodian forces whether the shelling was deliberate or accidental. He had asked Cambodian Gen. Lai Vira, commander of the 12th Division, for talks to discuss paying compensation and to ensure that fighting is contained within Cambodia.

Cambodia's warring factions had earlier been warned that Thai forces would fire smoke shells or flares if Cambodian shells landed in Thailand, and if the shelling continued, live fire would be returned, he said.

Admiral Winyan Appointed Deputy Navy Commander

BK1004131994 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Apr 94 p 6

[Text] His Majesty the King has appointed Admiral Winyan Santiwisat to replace Admiral Santiphap Muming as Deputy Royal Thai Navy Commander in Chief, the Prime Minister's Office announced yesterday.

The Royal appointment, which was made on April 2 and countersigned by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, is retroactive to March 1, when Adm. Santiphap died of liver cancer and heart failure, the office said.

Before the appointment, Admiral Winyan was Admiral of the Fleet under the Navy Commander in Chief, which post will be taken over by Admiral Chalin Sakhonsin.

ADB Ceases 'Soft Loans'; Economic Growth Cited

BK1104030394 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 11 Apr 94 p B1

[Text] Bangkok—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced it has stopped granting "soft loans" at a low interest rate to Thailand, saying the economic growth of the kingdom is now at a level where it no longer qualifies for these concessionary interest rate loans.

The bank said Thailand's annual economic growth rate had remained consistently high and the average yearly per capita income was now US$2,300 per annum which now disqualifies it from receiving the low interest rate soft loans. The maximum income per capita allowable is US$1,800.

ADB had previously sent a report to the Finance Ministry, saying that in the next decade Thailand looked set to become a new major industrial force in the region, bringing it up to the status of South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The bank said it was obligated to distribute concessionary loans of this kind to more deserving cases, countries which have less developed economies and lower income rates than Thailand.

According to the report, the bank plans to grant soft loans to east European and Latin American countries. Initially, it will allocate around US$500,000 million for the granting of such loans. The bank will, however grant soft loans totaling US$500 million to Thailand's state enterprises, although it did not go into detail about this.

Somchai Ruchupan, director-general of the Fiscal Policy Office, said the withdrawal of this loan privilege will not seriously affect Thailand's development as Thailand can seek loans from alternative sources.

A source at the Finance Ministry said ADB ceased granting loans of this type as of February this year.

Vietnam

Summit Meeting With Australia Begins in Hanoi

Vo Van Kiet Give Banquet Speeches

BK1204011494 Hanoi VNA in English 1653 GMT 11 Apr 94

[All quote marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 11—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet gave a banquet here this evening in honour of his Australian distinguished guests. At this event, he delivered a speech which read in part :

'It has been only a year since our first meeting in Canberra, but we have every reason to be satisfied with the rapid development of the multi-sided Vietnam-Australia cooperation, especially in the economic, trading, educational and training fields. We greatly appreciate Australia's active help to us in building a North-South 500 KV grid, a nearly-completed important project in our national construction. We also highly value the effective implementation of the Australian aid to train Vietnamese officials, as well as Australia's active contribution to a break-through in the relations between Vietnam and the international financial institutions.

'I am optimistic about the prospect for the development of friendly and cooperative relationship between our two countries. Despite thousands of miles separating us and the difference in historical circumstances and cultural traditions between Vietnam and Australia, both of us have been looking towards the Pacific and identifying ourselves with the common desire for an expanded regional cooperation.

'We are satisfied with the results of the open and frank exchanges of talks between us today. We are convinced that the agreement between us in many fields will contribute to further consolidation and development of the on-going fine cooperation between Vietnam and Australia'.

Prime Minister Paul Keating, for his part, said:

'The effect of the changes you have introduced, combined with the skill and enterprise of the Vietnamese people, have brought this country high levels of economic growth and have opened up new opportunities for our bilateral relationship. Australia, too, has been through a process of 'economic renovation'. We have opened our industry to competition and our economy to the world.

'I know, Mr Prime Minister, how difficult the task can be. But, like you, I also know how large are the rewards for our countries at the end of the process.

'And, like Vietnam Australia is also seeking closer links with our region not only economically but culturally, politically and strategically as well.

These parallel interests are creating unprecedented new opportunities for us.

Trade between Australia and Vietnam in 1982 was 2 million dollars. In 1993 it was 366 million dollars.

Australia is now Vietnam's third largest foreign investor, with nearly 800 million dollars invested here.

We are also developing new avenues for cooperation on regional issues.

And Vietnam can count on warm support from Australia as you move towards greater involvement in regional organisations.

Bilaterally, we are finding new opportunities to work together.

'I was also pleased to be able to tell you today, Mr Prime Minister, that Australia has committed more than 200 million dollars in a new four-year aid program, which we hope will cover areas such as education, health, infrastructure and legal training.

Vo Van Kiet, Keating Hold Talks

BK1204003494 Hanoi VNA in English 1511 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 11—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held talks here this morning with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, now on an official friendship visit to Vietnam. Speaking at the talks, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet welcomed Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating and his wife's first official friendship visit to Vietnam as an important event, opening a new chapter in the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The Vietnamese leader informed the Australian prime minister of the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the current renovation process and in the implementation of the foreign policy of independence, sovereignty and openess in the direction of diversification and multilateralization of international relations. He reaffirmed Vietnam's desire to strengthen the relations of friendship and all-sided cooperation with Australia on the basis of mutual respect, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefits. For his part, Mr.Paul Keating thanked Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife and the Vietnamese people for their hospitality. He spoke highly of the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in various fields, particularly economy in the renovation process. The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the rapid development of the friendship and effective cooperation in many fields since Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit to Australia in May 1993. They also expressed their wishes to promote the multi-sided cooperation between the two countries, and held that the two countries could supplement each other in their economic development process for the prosperity of each country, as well as of the Asian-Pacific region. They exchanged views on measures to further strengthen the cooperative relations between the two countries.

The Vietnamese side highly appreciated Australia's policy of attaching importance to the development of cooperation with Vietnam in trade, investment and other fields and its aid programme to Vietnam, especially Australia's experience sharing, technical assistance and personnel training to Vietnam as well as its cooperation in building the north-south 500 kv power line.

The Australian side pledged to continue its aid to Vietnam, and said that Australia was ready to broaden its cooperation and assistance to Vietnam in the oil and gas industry, telecommunications, energy, water resources, infrastructure construction, healthcare, education, personnel training and preservation of Hanoi's ancient sector. The two sides also compared notes on international and regional issues of common concern. Early this morning a state ceremony was held at the presidential palace to welcome Prime Minister Paul Keating, his wife and their entourage who arrived here yesterday. Present at the ceremony were Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Mayor of Hanoi Le At Hoi and other Vietnamese officials. This evening, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife gave a banquet in honour of Prime Minister P.Keating, his wife and other distinguished Australian guests.

President Meets Keating

BK1204005794 Hanoi VNA in English 1608 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 11—President Le Duc Anh received here today Australian Prime Minister [P.M.] Paul Keating who pays a courtesy visit to the Vietnamese leader on an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

Speaking at the reception, Prime Minister Keating sincerely thanked President Le Duc Anh for his reception and highlighted the results of the talks he had held earlier with Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. Mr Keating said that Australia was ready to increase investment capital and aid for Vietnam's development in the fields of education, healthcare, mining, telecommunications, infrastructure construction, commerce and so on. He expressed his pleasure at the achievements gained by the Vietnamese people in their renovation process, and he said he believed that following his visit the friendship and cooperation between Australia and Vietnam would be further consolidated and developed.

For his part, President Le Duc Anh welcomed Prime Minister Keating's current Vietnam visit, and he said he considered it a new step of development in the relations between the two countries. He sincrely thanked the Australian Government and people and P.M. Keating himself for their friendly feelings and precious assistance to the Vietnamese people in national construction as well as to the Vietnamese immigrants to quickly integrate themselves into the community life in Australia.

President Le Duc Anh informed Prime Minister Keating of Vietnam's foreign policy to make friends with all countries in the world. He expressed his belief that the relations of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Australia would be increasingly developed, thus actively contributing to peace, stability and development in the region.

British Minister of State Concludes Visit

BK1204003594 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 11—British Minister of State Alastair Goodlad left Vietnam today concluding his five-day visit here as guest of Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam. He was accompanied by representatives of a number of UK corporations working in banking, finance, petroleum, construction, electricity and air service. While here, the British delegation was received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City Nguyen Van Huan. It also held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien and had working sessions with Minister of Finance Ho Te, Minister of Transport and Communications Bui Danh Luu, Minister of Energy Thai Phung Ne, Vice Chairman of the State Planning Committee Tran Xuan Gia and Deputy Governor of the State Bank Chu Van Nguyen. The two sides in those meetings hold that Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit to the United Kingdom in last June has ushered in a new chapter of cooperation between the two countries. The Vietnamese side highly appreciated the British Government's efforts to promote its cooperation with and investment in Vietnam, and expressed its readiness to discuss with the British side measures to develop the bilateral ties to a new level. The British side highly valued the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in their renovation as well as in their implementation of the open foregn policy which aims to diversify and multilateralize Vietnam's relations with the international community. It expressed its wish to cooperate with Vietnam in the fields of banking, finance, construction of infrastructure, and so on. The two sides agreed that they would exchange views and discuss more about projects in the above-said fields. An agreement on avoidance of double taxation and a letter of exchange on research strategy and maintenance of the system of national highways and provincial roads in Vietnam were signed on this occasion. During its stay here, the British delegation also visited the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant.

Russian Scientific-Technological Group Arrives

BK1104163294 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 11—A delegation of the Russian Federations's Sub-Commission of the Russia-Vietnam Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Commercial and Scientific, Technological Cooperation arrived here today for the third session of the above- said commission. It is headed by Yuri Yarov, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Russian sub-commission.

Foreign Investment in National Market Reported

Target Achieved in 1st Quarter

BK1004084894 Hanoi VNA in English 0715 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 10—In the first quarter this year, foreign investments to Vietnam achieved the planned targets with 71 projects of totalling USD [U.S. Dollars] 1.3 billion.

So far, the Vietnamese Government has licensed 766 foreign investment projects with the total capital of USD 7.9 billion. According to report by the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI), the number of delegations of foreign investors and businessmen to visit Vietnam was increasing every day. During the past three months, 358 delegations of foreign businessmen with 1,549 arrivals visited Vietnam, an increase of 44 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year. Five major projects licenced in the first quarter this year include the VPC-Posco steel joint ventures of USD 56 million, the 100 per cent foreign investment porcelain enterprise of USD 19.5 million, the Thuan Kieu commercial and living skyscraper of USD 71.8 million, the Sao Mai cement joint venture of USD 233.8 million and a gas liquidization joint venture of USD 15 million.

In the first quarter, 18 projects were licenced to increase their investment capital with the total value of USD 400 million. The telecommunication joint venture between Vietnam and the TI Company of Australia has increased its investment capital to USD 287 million, up USD 200 million compared with its initial investment. SCCI said that it would convene national meetings with the investors soon.

SCCI Reviews Results

BK0904100194 Hanoi VNA in English 0728 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 9—The State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI) held a meeting here on April 8 with Vietnamese investors to brief the latter about the situation of 6 years implementation of the law on foreign investment in Vietnam .

At the meeting, representatives of the SCCI discussed with investors problems occurred during the implementation of the joint ventures and the measures to strengthen the management role of the Vietnamese partners.

Over the past 6 years, investment capital in all forms recorded USD 2,084 million of which the Vietnamese shares occupied 15 per cent. The foreign invested enterprises have turned out products and services of USD 780 million. Through foreign cooperation and investment, Vietnam can promote production capacity of its enterprises and create new momentum for industries such as transportation, post, hotel service, etc. Noteworthy is that important results have been obtained in application of advanced technology in telecommunication, oil exploration, electronic, chemical industries and agriculture.

So far, the foreign invested enterprises have created 45,800 jobs and carried out considerably financial duties to the government. [sentence as received]

Activities in Ho Chi Minh City

BK0904140994 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 20 Mar 94 p 5

[Interview with Truong Tan Sang, chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City people's committee, by an unidentified NHAN DAN correspondent on "the city's foreign economic activities"—place and date not given]

[Summary] [Correspondent] "Could you, Comrade Chairman, give your observations on the results of the city's foreign economic activities over the years and on their course of development in the period ahead?"

[Truong Tan Sang] "As far as Ho Chi Minh City is concerned, foreign economic activities are a very important part of the city's socioeconomic development strategy. They have had a positive impact on various economic activities and have helped increasingly develop the economic growth rate."

The export volume of industrial products and processed farm produce have increased with every passing day. "We have been able to maintain an annual increase in our import-export volume of approximately 15 percent. In 1993 the export volume of processed industrial products accounted for 64 percent of the city's total exports. Over 80 percent of the city's equipment and machinery were imported. Tourism and support services made up 15 percent of the city's annual revenue."

Foreign capital invested in the city is increasing. "Foreign invested capital in 1991 was as large as the figures of many previous years combined. In 1992, foreign invested capital increased 1.3 fold over 1991. In 1993, it was 1.8 times as much as that of 1992."

In the years to come, especially 1994, the city's foreign economic efforts will be directed at consolidating our existing markets, opening new markets, strengthening and establishing more market monitoring organizations, encouraging economic firms to find new foreign markets, striving to attract more foreign capital investment in the infrastructure and in the development of advanced technologies, and promoting the production of export-oriented goods.

[Correspondent] Could you, comrade, tell us whether effective foreign economic activities have had any impact on the city's economic development?

[Truong Tan Sang] "Foreign economic activities have been and are a very important factor for socioeconomic development in the city." Noteworthy is the fact that they have become a source of revenue for the state budget. "In 1993, revenue from taxes levied on imports and exports was estimated at 2,600 billion dong. This helped increase the city's 1993 budget revenue by 44 percent over 1992."

So far, "the city has licensed 280 investment projects with a total investment capital of $2,238 million, of which 159 projects with a total capital investment of $500 million have been deployed, providing jobs for 25,000 workers."

[Correspondent] "The operations of party and mass organizations in joint ventures with foreign countries have become an issue. What is the city party committee's policy toward this issue?"

[Truong Tan Sang] There are trade union organizations in a number of joint ventures with foreign countries. "But in general, setting up party and mass organizations in joint venture establishments has not been given due attention. That is why there have been disputes over privileges between workers and enterprise owners in certain establishments. These disputes have not been settled promptly, thus adversely affecting production and business environments. As the scope of investment will grow bigger in the future, the establishment and consolidation of such party and mass organizations must be carried out urgently in order to protect the legal interest of investors and workers within the framework of the law now in force."

[Correspondent]: Thank you, Comrade Chairman.

Vietnam Airlines Reopens Hanoi-Na San Air Route

BK1104070994 Hanoi VNA in English 0643 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi [words indistinct] Another domestic air route, Hanoi-Na San (Son La Province) was reopened yesterday. This is the 20th air route of the national flag carrier Vietnam Airlines. To reopen (?the Hanoi)-Na San air service, Vietnam Airlines invested more than one million VND [Vietnamese dong] in building a new terminal and installing a new communication system. Together with the reoperation 10 days ago on the air service between Hanoi and Dien Bien Phu (Lai Chau Province) the Hanoi-Na San air route will meet the

(?growing demands) for fast transport to serve tourism and business, thus helping develop socioeconomic activities in northern province.

Grain Shortage, Hunger Cited in Nghe An Province

BK1104111594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Station correspondent Hoai Thu's essay: "Efforts by Dien Chau District To Fight Hunger and Poverty"]

[Summary] Nghe An Province's Dien Chau district has a population of 260,000, most of whom engage in agricultural production, planting various crops on a total area of 23,000-24,000 hectares of land. Among them 14,000 hectares are planted with rice and 3,000 hectares with peanuts. In the most productive year, the district can produce 63,000 tonnes of grain. Its per capita in grain is 260 kg. People in the district also engage in fishing, salt production, and livestock breeding.

"However, after six years of implementing Resolution No. 10 on the contractual system, only 65 percent of households in the district earn enough grain for self-consumption. The remaining 35 percent face a grain shortage and numerous difficulties due to poverty, among them more than 11 percent experience hunger [dqois] from five to six months."

What is the main causes of hunger and poverty experienced by the abovementioned 35 percent of the district's households? Through our studies, we found that these households had insufficient capital, used poor cultivation methods, while the cost of production was too high and the price of rice was relatively low in the market.

"Indeed, more than half of the 35 percent poor households are short of capital; they have too many children, most of them are in poor health. Worse still, they could not pay their debts to the local agricultural cooperative year after year."

To overcome these difficulties, the district must strive to encourage the peasants to plant new high-yield rice and peanut varieties to attain an average rice yield of 45 quintals per hectar and peanut, 20 quintal per hectare. The district must also strive to plant more soybean and sweet potatoes on its fallow land to attain a production target of 70,000-80,000 tonnes of grain by the year 1997.

The goal of the district is to overcome hunger by 1998, reduce the number of poor households by half, and help 40 percent of the total households in the district lead a better life by the year 2000.

"The struggle against hunger and poverty is a difficult task. It requires coordination from various sectors and branches while efforts must be made from the top to the lowest level. It is necessary to carry out this struggle in close association with the implementation of the family planning program to reduce the population growth rate of the district from 2.4 percent at present to 1.7 percent in the year 2000."

Government Loan Projects Create 335,000 Jobs

BK1004084594 Hanoi VNA in English 0715 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 10—Nearly 8,000 projects throughout the country have got loans of about VND [Vietnamese dong] 420 billion from the national fund since the launching of a credit programme two years ago, it was reported by the Central State Treasury. As a result, the programme has helped create 335,000 jobs nationwide. Leading the programme was Ho Chi Minh City which gave loans of VND 36.13 billion to 317 projects, creating 16,500 jobs. Next was Hanoi which lent VND 24.29 billion to 229 projects attracting 19,622 workers.

These projects are usually small and operate in the fields of aquaculture, sea fishing, small industries and handicrafts, building materials production and animal breeding. The state treasury and the concerned branches and services are seeking measures to streamline lending procedures to provide credits in time and help to use them effectively.

Further on Hanoi Midterm Congress Resolution

Resolution, Part V

BK0804124094 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 19 Mar 94 p 2

[Fifth installment of the "basic content" of the Hanoi 20-25 January Mid-Term Party National Conference Resolution]

[Text] 3. To uniformly build a market mechanism managed by the state in accordance with socialism:

We will continue to build a new and uniformed economic policy, persist in the transformation to the market mechanism in parallel with the consolidation of an effective state management, and continue to perfect all mechanisms and policies so that the market mechanism can operate effectively:

—To ensure the independence of all business entities. State agencies will only manage state-related domains and will not directly control business activities.

—Prices are to be determined by the market.

—Lawful and healthy competition will be encouraged, while monopolies will be avoided.

—Businessmen are entitled to profit as long as they operate within the laws.

—The state will fix and subsidize the prices of certain merchandise that are vital socioeconomically within the scope of the market mechanism.

—The state encourages the uniformed establishment of various markets: merchandise, services, labor, capital, technology, real estate, and so forth.

Which principles should a socialism-oriented state management apply?

—The state should manage the whole economy and all economic sectors, not limit itself to the state-owned sector.

—The centralization and unification of the government in macro-economic management should be strengthened in parallel with the expansion of responsibility and authority of sectors and localities in areas that they can manage more efficiently, while always respecting the independence of business enterprises.

—The relevant ministries should strive to satisfactorily formulate development strategies, plans, and policies for their sectors; guide, support, inspect, and control all business establishments of various economic sectors in the localities in accordance with the state economic-technical management function.

—The comprehensive inter-sectorial management of government ministries should be consolidated, so that all socioeconomic activities are put under the state's effective macro-management.

—State authorities at all levels should carry out state management duties in their respective areas in all business establishments regardless of them being centrally- or locally-owned.

For the management task to be effective, we must:

—Complete the legal system and resolutely enforce the laws.

—Consolidate and develop the supervisory role the staff in planning agencies to strengthen planning for development.

—Continue with the comprehensive and profound reforms of the financial and monetary systems.

4. To Take Care of Cultural and Social Issues:

The most thorough guiding concept of our party reflected in all cultural and social lines and policies is to care, nurture, and develop the human factor, which is both a motive and an aim of the revolution. The important issues in these domains at present are employment, social equity, level of public knowledge, a healthy and clean society, the development of national culture, and health care and protection.

—What are the most important ways to create employment?

All people will cooperate with the state to invest more savings to accelerate industrialization and modernization, thus creating more jobs. All citizens and economic elements, domestic and overseas investors alike, are to be encouraged to develop their business activities and expand their external relations, as development will help solve the employment issue.

—On what basis do we set up our social equality policies?

Economic growth must relate closely to social progress and equality at each stage of its development.

Social equality is seen in the reasonable distribution of production resources and products of the economy, as well as in opportunities for development of each individual.

We will apply the principle that allows higher income for those who are produce and contribute more, and vice versa. Distribution is based mainly on labor and on capital contributed to business and production activities. Talents and skills are to be encouraged and valued.

The lawful accumulation of wealth should be encouraged, while programs to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty should be developed. We should see a growing number of people getting rich before others as a positive indication of development.

We will carry out suitable policies in credit, tax, and career training to create conditions for the poor to improve their chances of making ends meet and becoming better off. We should also motivate the richer sections of society to help the state assist those who are poorer with capital, production resources, experience, and advice for their own businesses.

The richer, developed regions should help the state assist poorer, and slower-developing ones. The state will have suitable policies to reserve investment subsidies for poorer regions, and will assign the richer regions the responsibility of supporting poorer ones.

The state should also have suitable policies and special aid for regions with unique difficulties and disadvantages in comparison to others. These include mountainous and remote regions, ethnic minority regions, and former revolutionary bases. On the other hand, these localities also have to help themselves by developing their potential and using subsidized capital efficiently. (To be continued)

Resolution, Part VI

BK0804141994 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 20 Mar 94 p 2

[Sixth installment of the "basic contents" of the Hanoi 20-25 January Midterm National Party Conference Resolution]

[Text] It is necessary to establish the all people's funds to repay those who have served the nation with merit.

We must formulate policy to regulate the wealthy, motivate mass organizations and individuals to voluntarily participate in various humanitarian and charitable activities.

Efforts must be made to enhance the citizens' duties, strengthen the community's responsibility to society, and develop our nation's tradition of benevolence.

—What are the key measures formulated to effectively fight corruption?

The key measures include efforts to:

—review, amend, or supplement mechanism, policies, laws, and procedures governing the activities of state agencies and government employees while trying to overcome loopholes in the management system;

—renovate and consolidate financial management and bookkeeping;

—streamline the mechanism, cut unnecessary expenditure, and guarantee sufficient salaries for wage-earners;

—consolidate education and training for cadres and party members to heighten their revolutionary morality;

—strictly carry out inspection, investigation, and control of agencies concerned and mass organizations to promptly detect corruption cases; and

—promptly and seriously deal with those who are involved in corruption, especially in serious cases, in accordance with the law and regardless of their rank and position.

5. Strengthen national defense and security

While integrating our efforts for national construction, we must attach importance to national defense and security to satisfactorily protect the fatherland; defend national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; maintain national security and politico-social stability; and adhere to the socialist construction orientation.

It is necessary to firmly grasp and continue to satisfactorily implement the common task of maintaining national defense and security, thoroughly understand the guiding thoughts set by the party Central Committee's Third Plenum, carry out the all people's comprehensive and protracted struggle to foil all schemes and acts of the "peaceful evolution," rebellion, and power seizures.

6. Continue to broaden external relations.

We must develop the achievements in external relations and continue our independent, sovereign, open-door foreign policy and diversified diplomatic activities. Efforts must be made to win more friends and reduce differences to create favorable conditions for national construction and defense, while positively contributing to the common struggle of people in the world for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

7. Building the law-governed state of Vietnam that of the people, by the people, and for the people.

What are the characteristics of the law-governed state of Vietnam?

It is the state of the people, by the people, and for the people in which all aspects of social life are governed by the law. This will lead our country to progress in accordance with the socialist orientation. The law-governed state of Vietnam is established on the basis of strengthening and expanding the all-people's great unity bloc comprising workers, peasants, and the intellectuals under the party leadership.

In format, the law-governed state upholds the law and respects the three branches of power namely legislative, executive, and administrative powers, which is similar to the bourgeoisie law-governed state. We also study and apply some rational aspects of the bourgeoisie law-governed state. However, the characteristics of our law-governed state are different from the bourgeoisie law-governed state. As far as the nature of class is concerned, our state is established on the basis of the working class as symbolized by the leadership of the party, the vanguard unit of the working class. The party formulates lines and policies, and leads political organizations to implement them. Because our law-governed state is established on this basis, it has unique characteristics of a state that is of people, by the people, and for the people, resting on the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance. The state serves the interest of the laboring people and the nation, while the bourgeoisie law- governed state naturally protects capitalism and serves the interests of the bourgeoisie class. It cannot represent the interests of the working class and the laboring people. Our state upholds the law and manages all social activities through the law. The characteristics of our laws are different from those of bourgeoisie laws. Our laws are aimed at developing our nation in accordance with the socialist orientation, while the laws of the bourgeoisie state are aimed at protecting capitalism.

Resolution, Part VII

BK0804142694 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 21 Mar 94 p 3

[Seventh installment of the "basic contents" of the Hanoi 20-25 January Mid-Term Party National Conference Resolution]

[Text] What were the policies and measures put forth by the conference to continue building the law-governing Vietnamese state?

—Practising socialist democracy and strongly developing the people's collective mastery are the most important tasks and the fine characteristics of our state. To develop democracy, we must satisfactorily carry out the following: Protect human rights and other basic civil rights already inscribed in the constitution; scrupulously consider and resolve complaints and denunciations by the people; make arrangements for the people to participate in public affairs; contribute views to the formulation of party policies and important government bills, and improve electoral activities. To effectively achieve this, party organizations must firmly grasp the party's conceptions and policies, evaluate the actual situation, and devise plans and measures to get every job done. In practicing socialist democracy, we must resolve to fight bureaucracy, officialism, corruption, wasteful spending, and the abuse of privilege. We must fight manifestations of extreme democracy and adopt dictatorial measures against elements committing acts of betrayal against the fatherland, undermining national security, and violating the people's interest.

—We must step up and improve the quality of legislative work, build a uniform and consistent legal system, and institutionalize party lines in all areas of the social life.

—We must intensify our didactical dissemination of laws, improve the people's knowledge of and their sense of respect for the law, ensuring that the law is complied with scrupulously, uniformly, and fairly.

—We must continue to streamline and renovate the state working apparatus, ensure a unified authority and clear-cut work distribution, and develop the effect of the three rights [quyeenf]—legislative, executive, and judicial. We must act in accordance with the principles of democratic centralism. The political report puts forth the orientations for improving the working quality of the National Assembly, undertaking administrative reform, continuing to strengthen the judicial system organizationally and renovating its activities to develop the efficiency of the state working aparatus.

8. We must renovate and rectify the party, broaden the all-people great unity bloc, and consolidate the close relationship between the party and the people.

As initial efforts to review various aspects of party-building work have just been undertaken, there are issues which we must continue to study and review with more depth if we are to draw on correct experiences. The political report raises the following main points in party building:

a. "We must strengthen political and ideological work and ensure the political and ideological unanimity of the entire party. We must keep party cadres and members constantly aware of the party's conceptions and policies, improve their knowledge, and help them remain firm on the path toward socialism. We must creatively apply and develop Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh thought, and all the intellectual quintessences of our time, sensitively take hold of new things and correctly handle everything arising from reality."

Intensifying political and ideological activities is an urgent and fundamental duty arising from our party's leadership requirements in the present stage. It is important that the party must raise its knowledge to the level required of it by its tasks if it is to lead our national revolution to develop its advantges, seize opportunities, overcome all dangers, and surmout all ordeals. Because of the disintegration of the socialist system in the Soviet Union, confidence in the socialist path has somewhat wavered among certain segments of party cadres and members. Worse, certain people have opted for another path. They have propagated their erroneous conceptions that are at variance with party lines. We must intensify political theory indoctrination to consolidate the revolutionary stance of our party cadres and members, and attempt to "iron out erroneous viewpoints, illusionary conceptions, and idelogical vacillations. We must struggle against manifestations of opportunism, rightism, dogmatism, and conservatism. Party cadres and members must scrupulously comply with all party resolutions and directives and the state law and must not abuse democractic liberties to propagate view that are contrary to party lines."

"Party members, especially party cadres at various levels, must constantly steel their revolutionary qualities and ethics, and study harder to improve their knowledge."

b. "We must strengthen the unity and unanimity within the party and must adopt organizational principles for party activities, especially the principles of democratic centralism, collective leadership, and individual responsibility. We must steel our revolutionary ethics and build for ourselves a wholesome lifestyle against wasteful spending, corruption, and illegal dealings. We must guard against individualism, indiscipline, arbitrariness, despotism, departmentalism, and nepotism. We must attach importance to the safeguarding of the party and must maintain internal and national secrecy. We must guard against all the schemes and tricks aimed at causing cadres to deviate ideologically. We must increase our control over the implementation of the party's lines, policies, and regulations."